JUMP COMICS

●再会

NO.26

HUNTER × HUNTER

ハンター × ハンター

冨樫義博

DIGITAL

DIGITAL COLORED COMICS

26

SHUEISHA

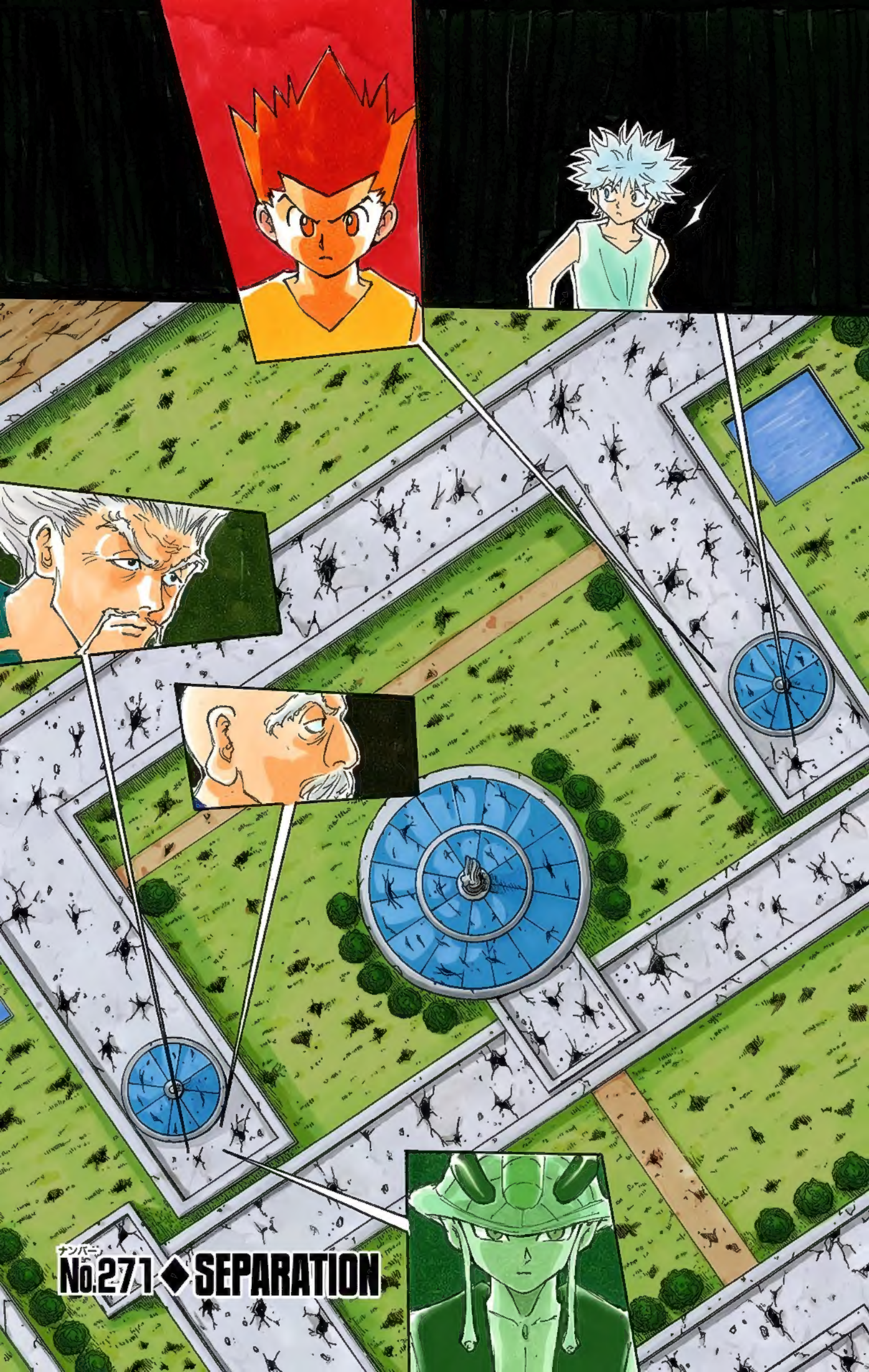
JUMP COMICS

HUNTER × HUNTER
ハンター × ハンター

NO.26 再会
ナンバー　さいかい

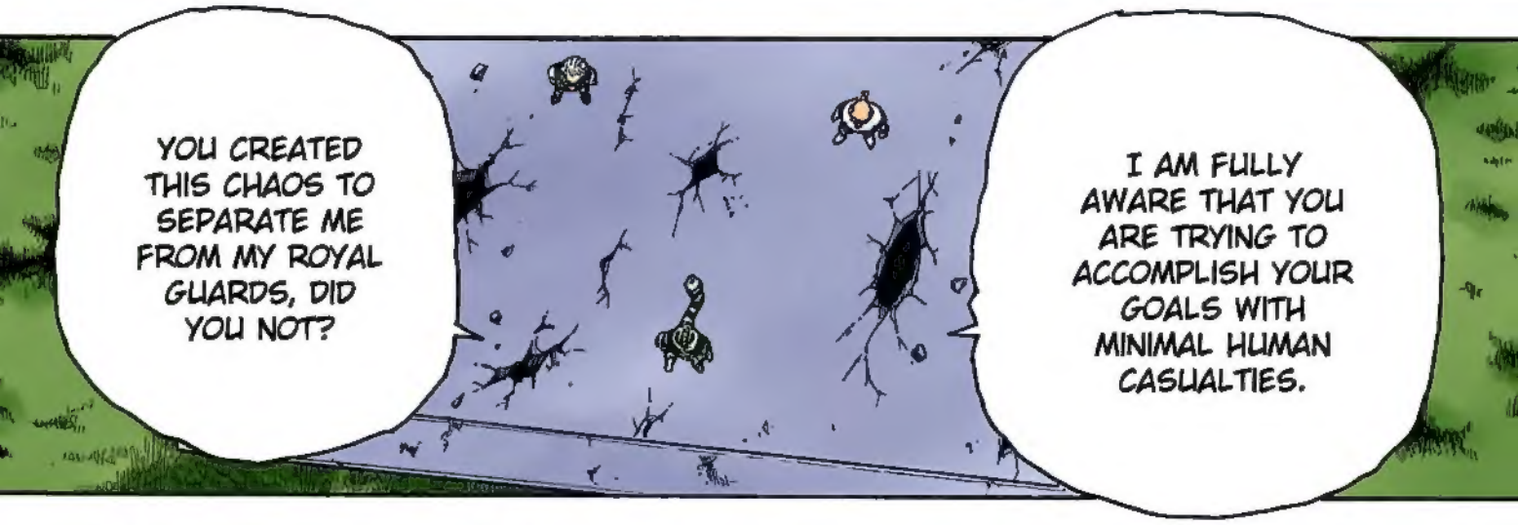
冨樫義博
とがしよしひろ

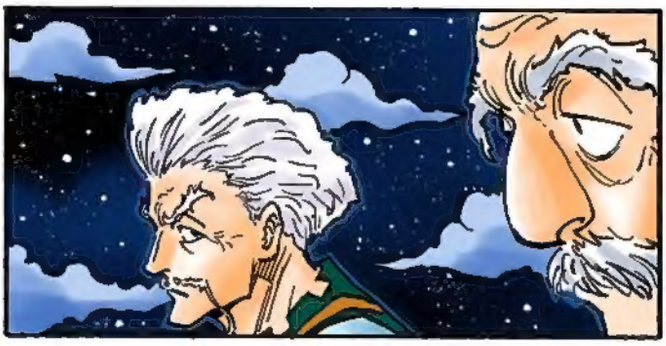
★This Work Is Based On The Author's Original Drawing In Addition To The Author's Color Original Drawing This Is A Special Edition Version That Was Digitally Colored By Shueisha.



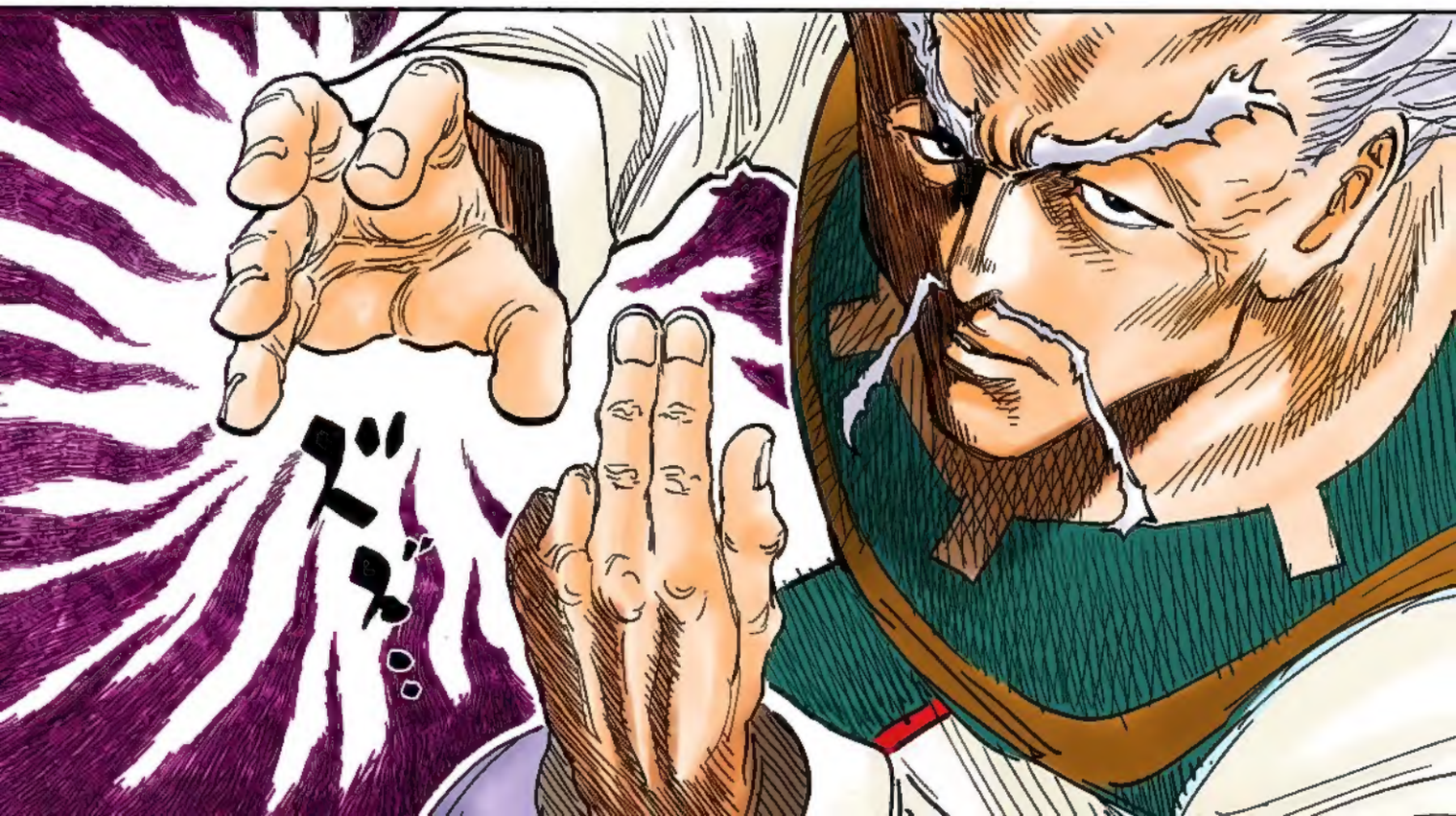
No.271 ◆ SEPARATION

TAKE ME.


YOU CREATED THIS CHAOS TO SEPARATE ME FROM MY ROYAL GUARDS, DID YOU NOT?
I AM FULLY AWARE THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS WITH MINIMAL HUMAN CASUALTIES.



TAKE ME THERE.
I CARE NOT.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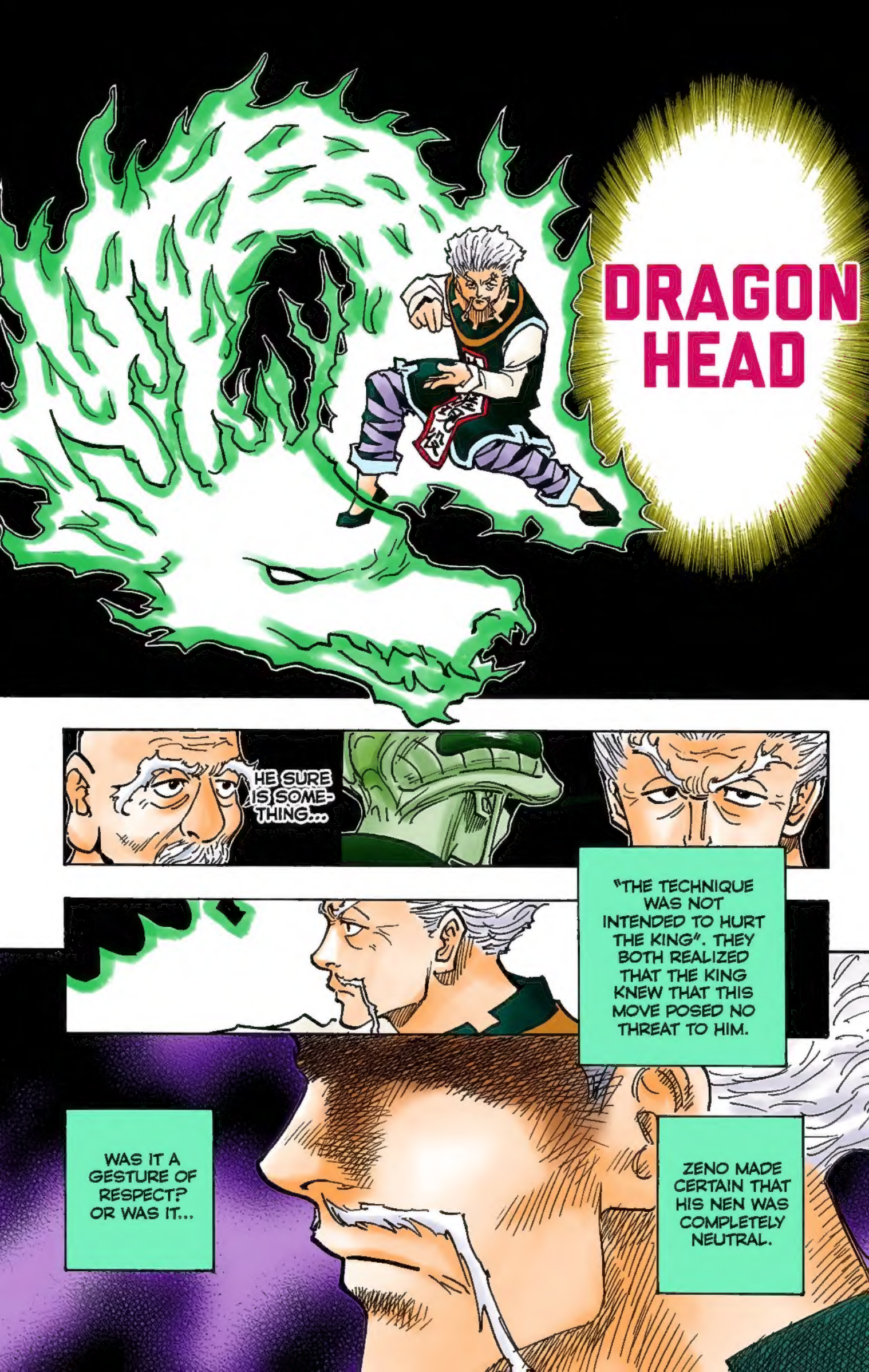
DRAGON HEAD
HE SURE IS SOME-THING...
"THE TECHNIQUE WAS NOT INTENDED TO HURT THE KING". THEY BOTH REALIZED THAT THE KING KNEW THAT THIS MOVE POSED NO THREAT TO HIM.
WAS IT A GESTURE OF RESPECT? OR WAS IT...
ZENO MADE CERTAIN THAT HIS NEN WAS COMPLETELY NEUTRAL.

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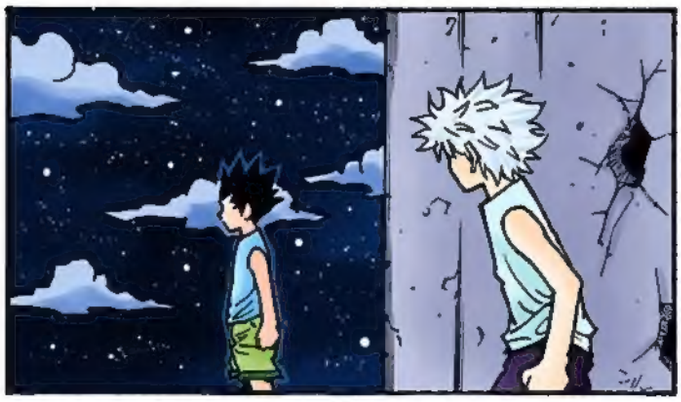
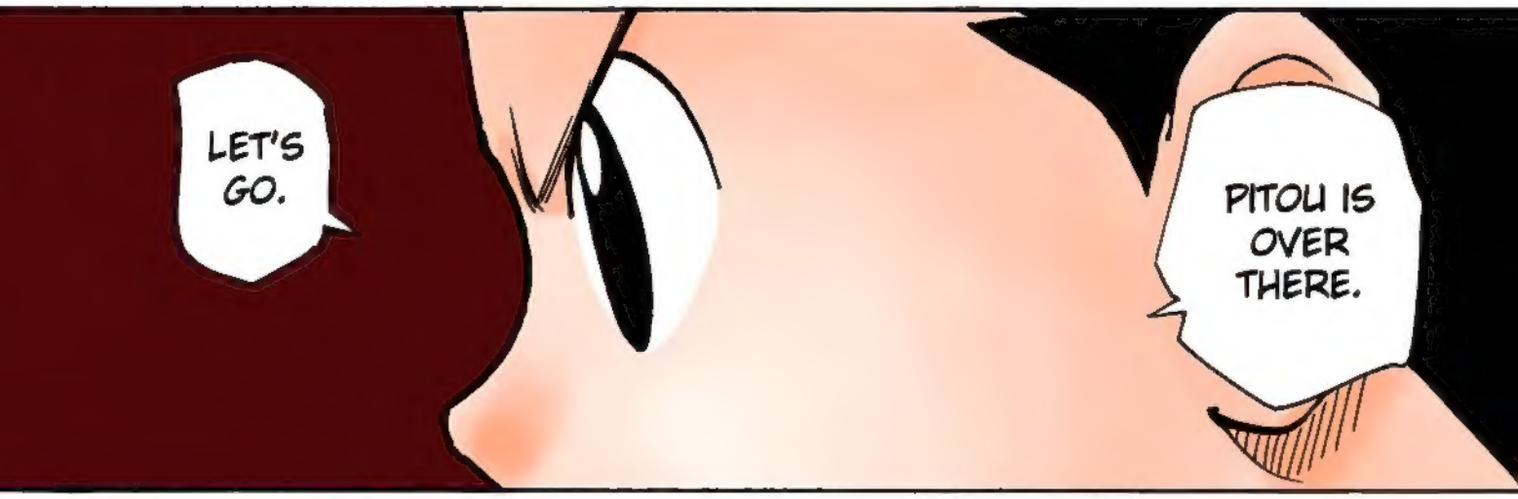
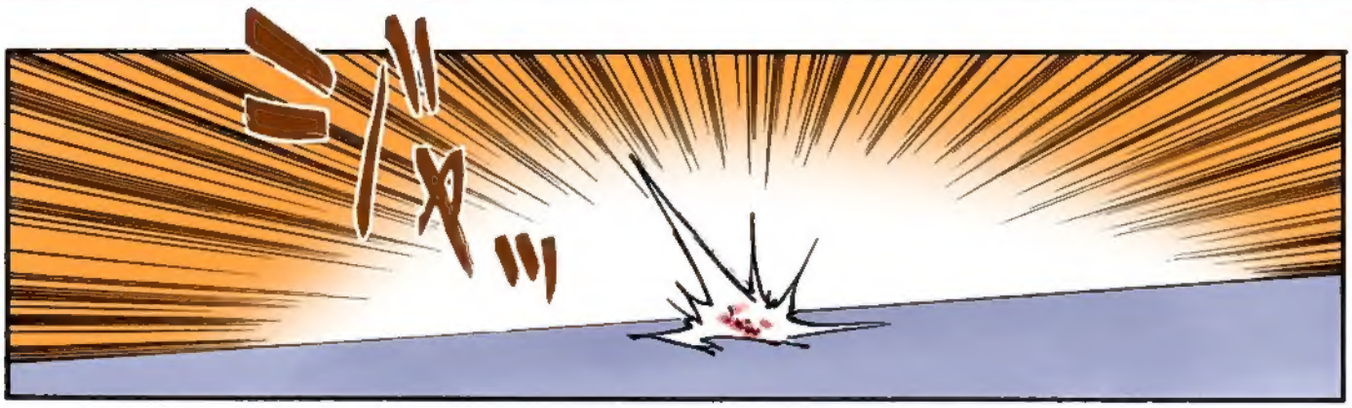
0:00:18:56



KILLUA.


LET'S GO.
PITOU IS OVER THERE.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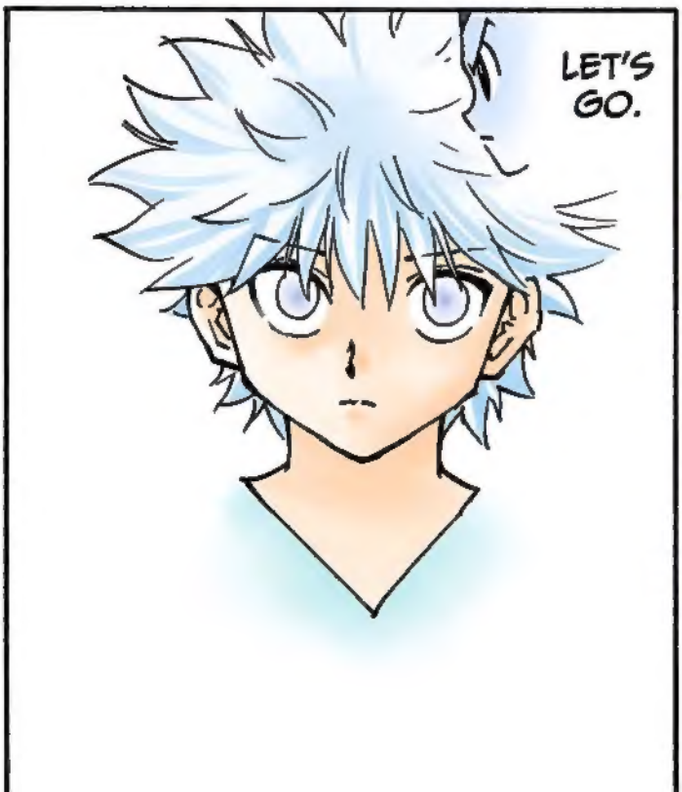
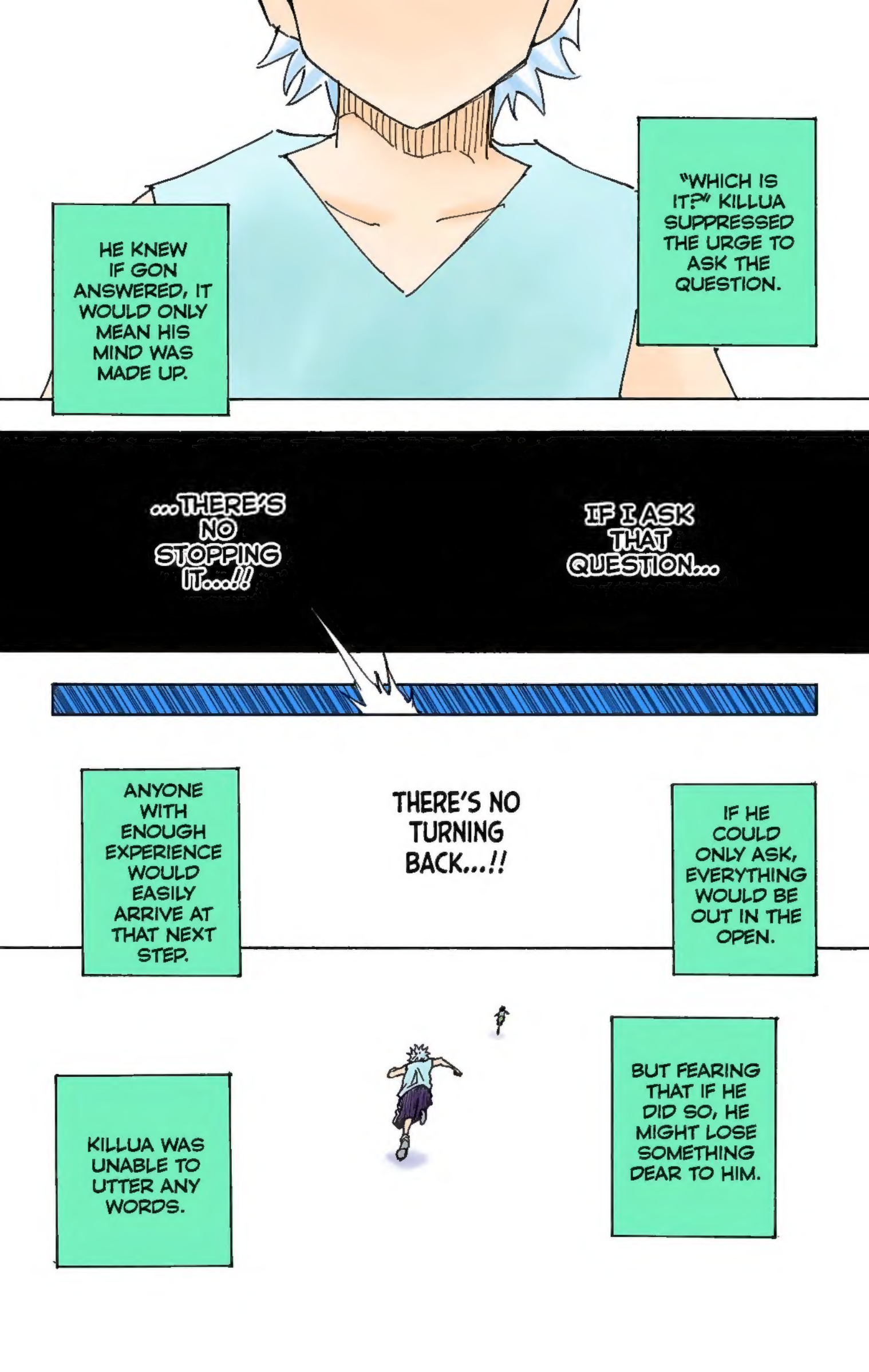
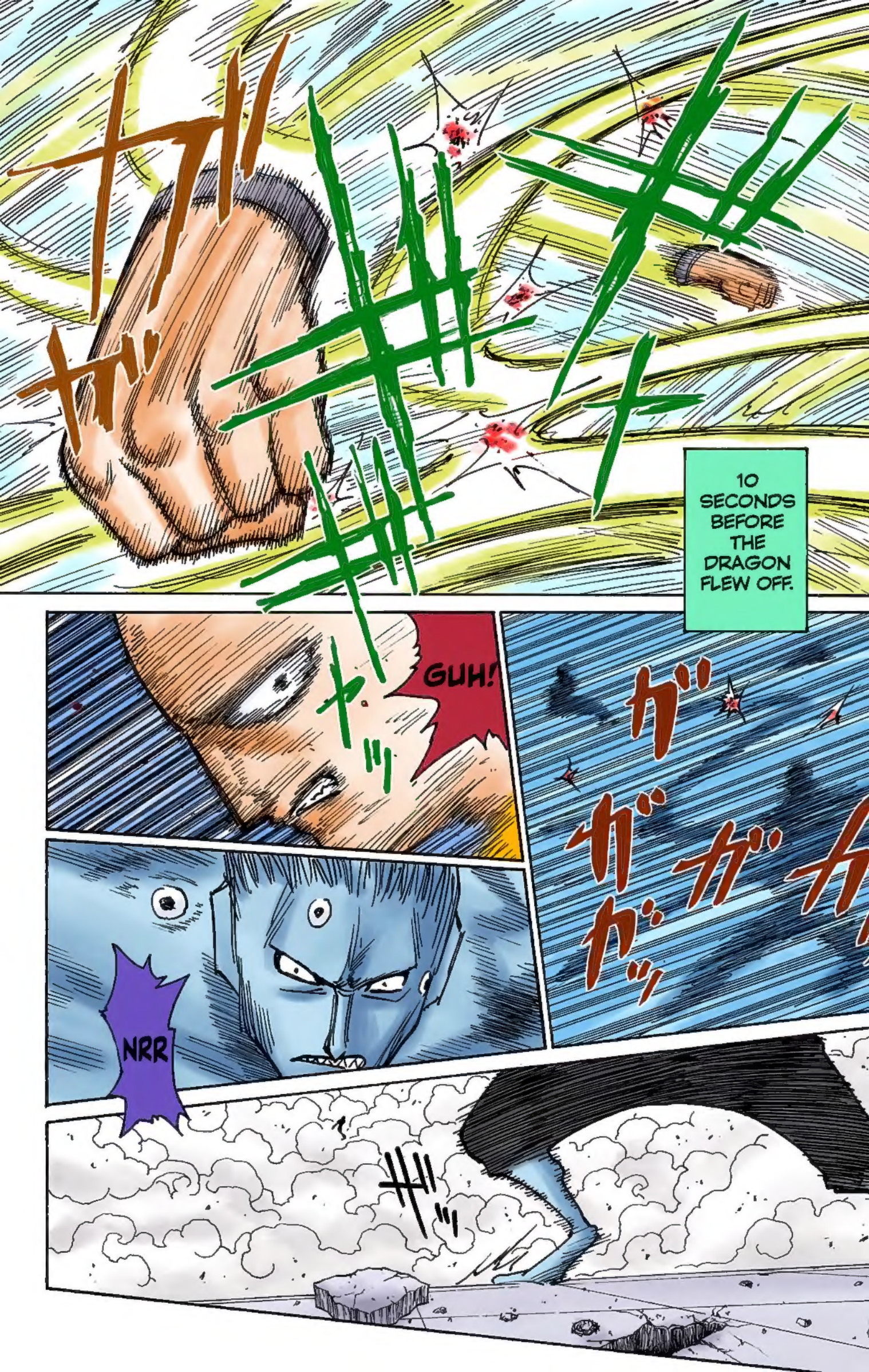
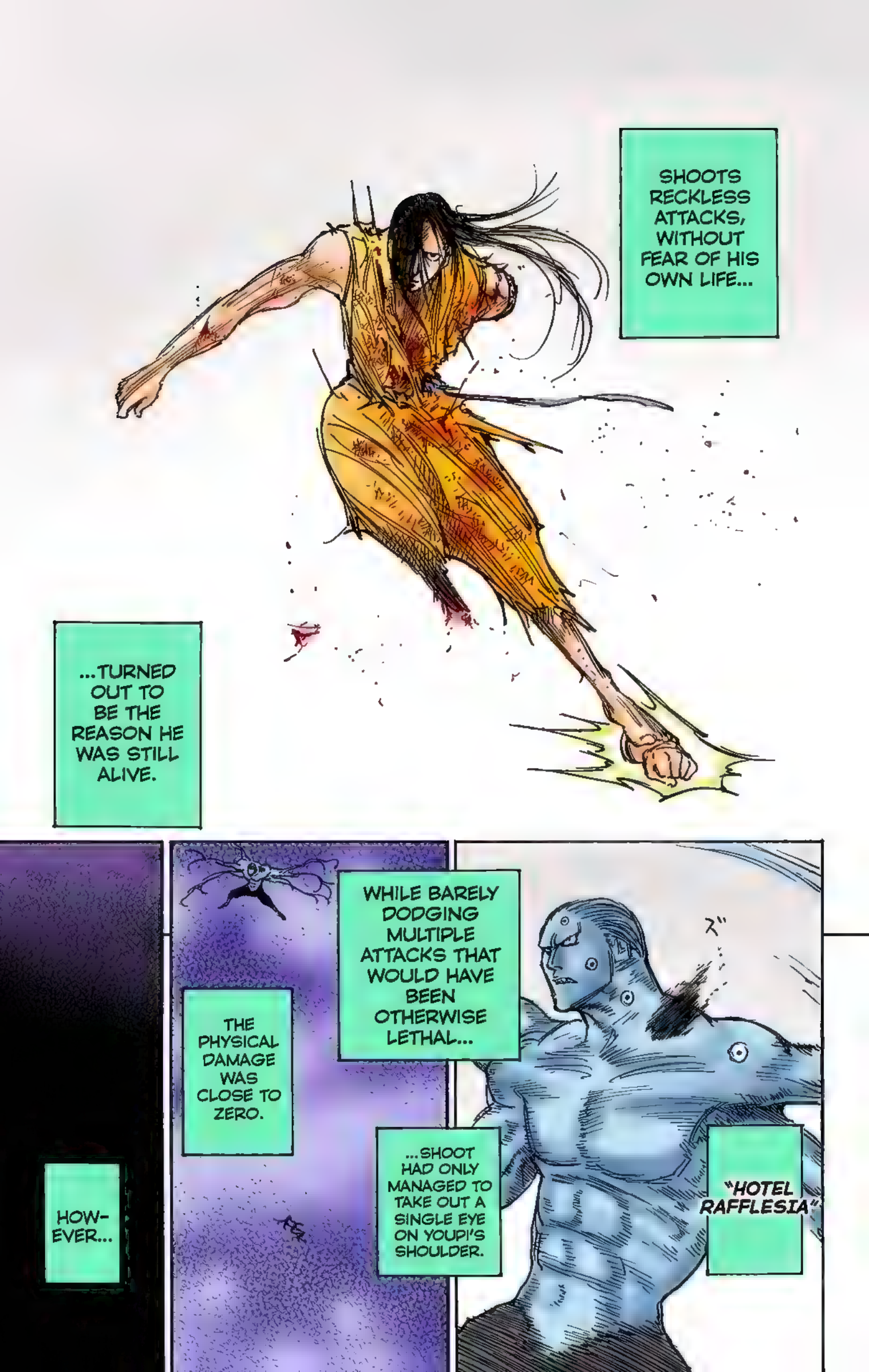

LET'S GO.


HE KNEW IF GON ANSWERED, IT WOULD ONLY MEAN HIS MIND WAS MADE UP.
"WHICH IS IT?" KILLUA SUPPRESSED THE URGE TO ASK THE QUESTION.
...THERE'S NO STOPPING IT...!!
IF I ASK THAT QUESTION...
ANYONE WITH ENOUGH EXPERIENCE WOULD EASILY ARRIVE AT THAT NEXT STEP.
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK...!!
IF HE COULD ONLY ASK, EVERYTHING WOULD BE OUT IN THE OPEN.
KILLUA WAS UNABLE TO UTTER ANY WORDS.
BUT FEARING THAT IF HE DID SO, HE MIGHT LOSE SOMETHING DEAR TO HIM.


10 SECONDS BEFORE THE DRAGON FLEW OFF.
GUH!
NRR


SHOOTS RECKLESS ATTACKS, WITHOUT FEAR OF HIS OWN LIFE...
...TURNED OUT TO BE THE REASON HE WAS STILL ALIVE.
HOW-EVER...
THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE WAS CLOSE TO ZERO.
WHILE BARELY DODGING MULTIPLE ATTACKS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN OTHERWISE LETHAL...
...SHOOT HAD ONLY MANAGED TO TAKE OUT A SINGLE EYE ON YOUPI'S SHOULDER.
"HOTEL RAFFLESIA"

YOUPI WAS UNABLE TO FINISH OFF HIS OPPONENT.

YOUPI AND SHOOT'S OBJECTIVES HAPPENED TO COINCIDE.

I CAN'T LET HIM GET CLOSE TO THE KING!!

IT INFLUENCED YOUPI'S MENTAL PSYCHE.

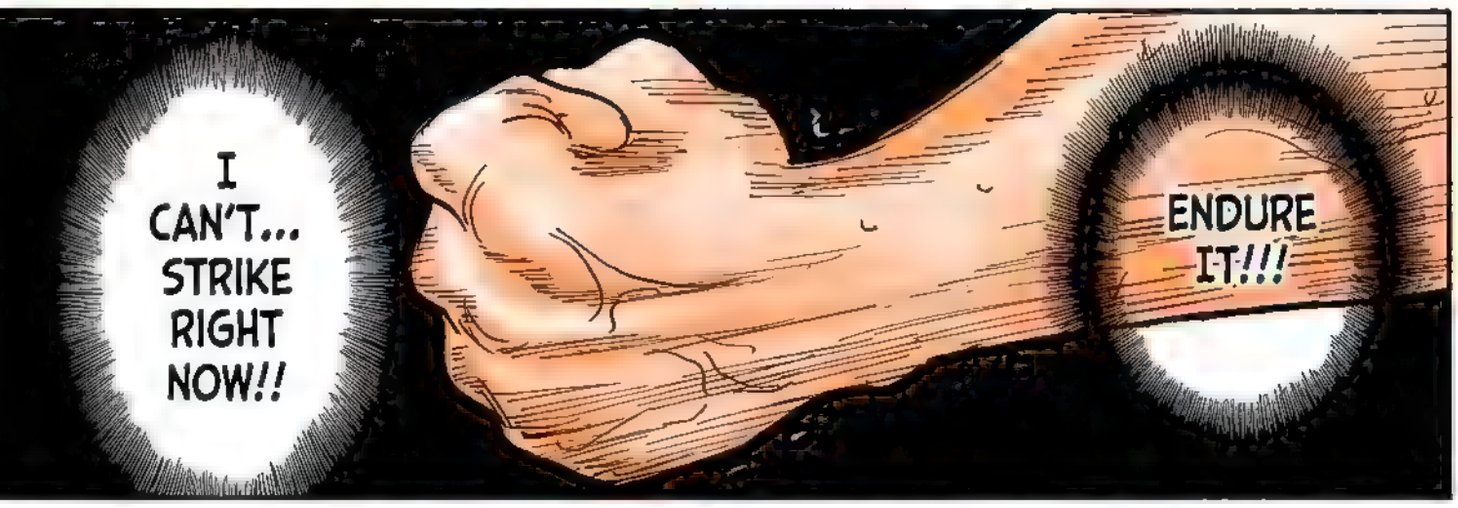
THE STRANGE SENSATION THAT HIS MOMENTUM WAS BEING STOLEN, "RATHER THAN DESTROYED"...

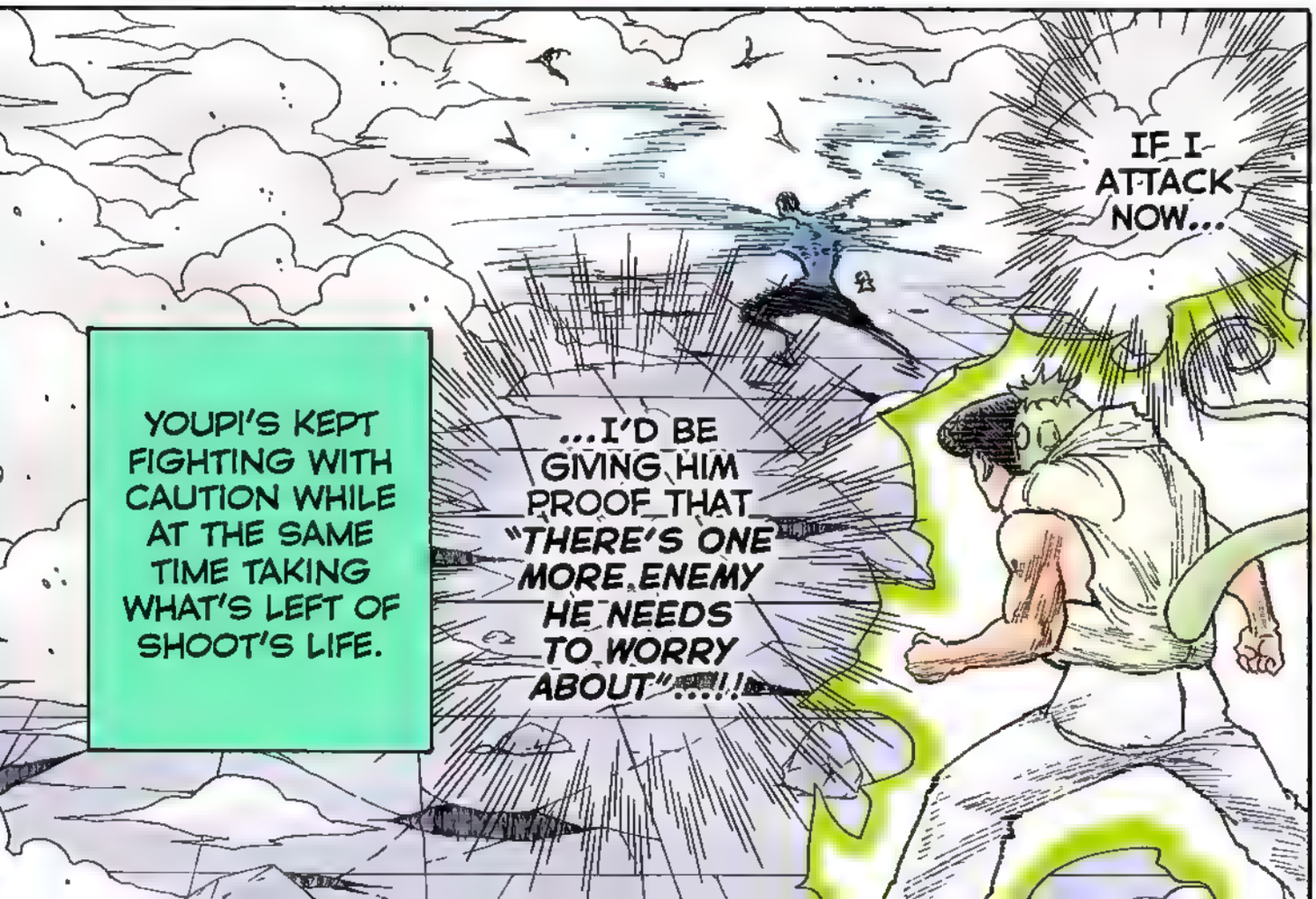
BUT...

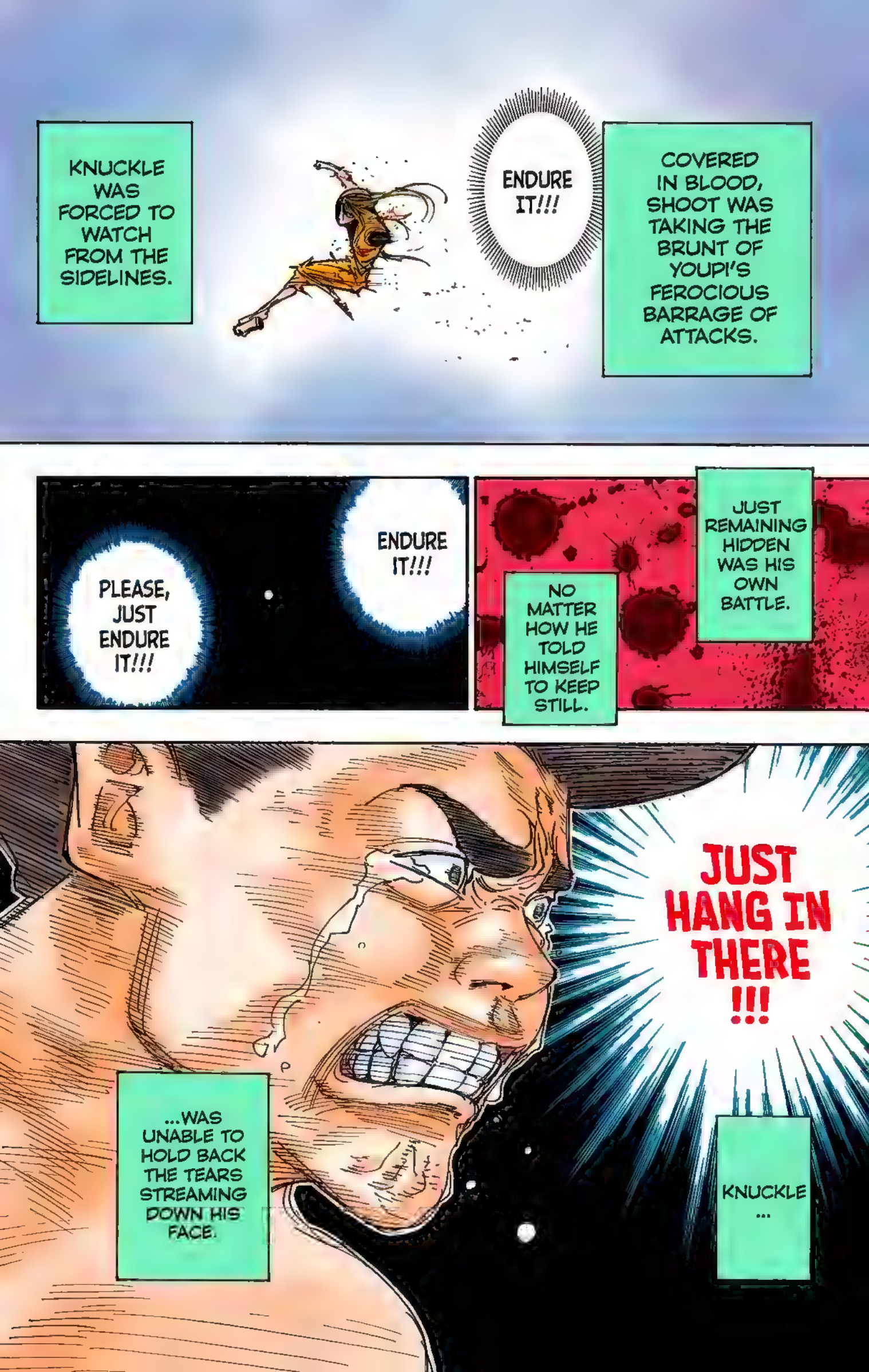
THIS UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS...

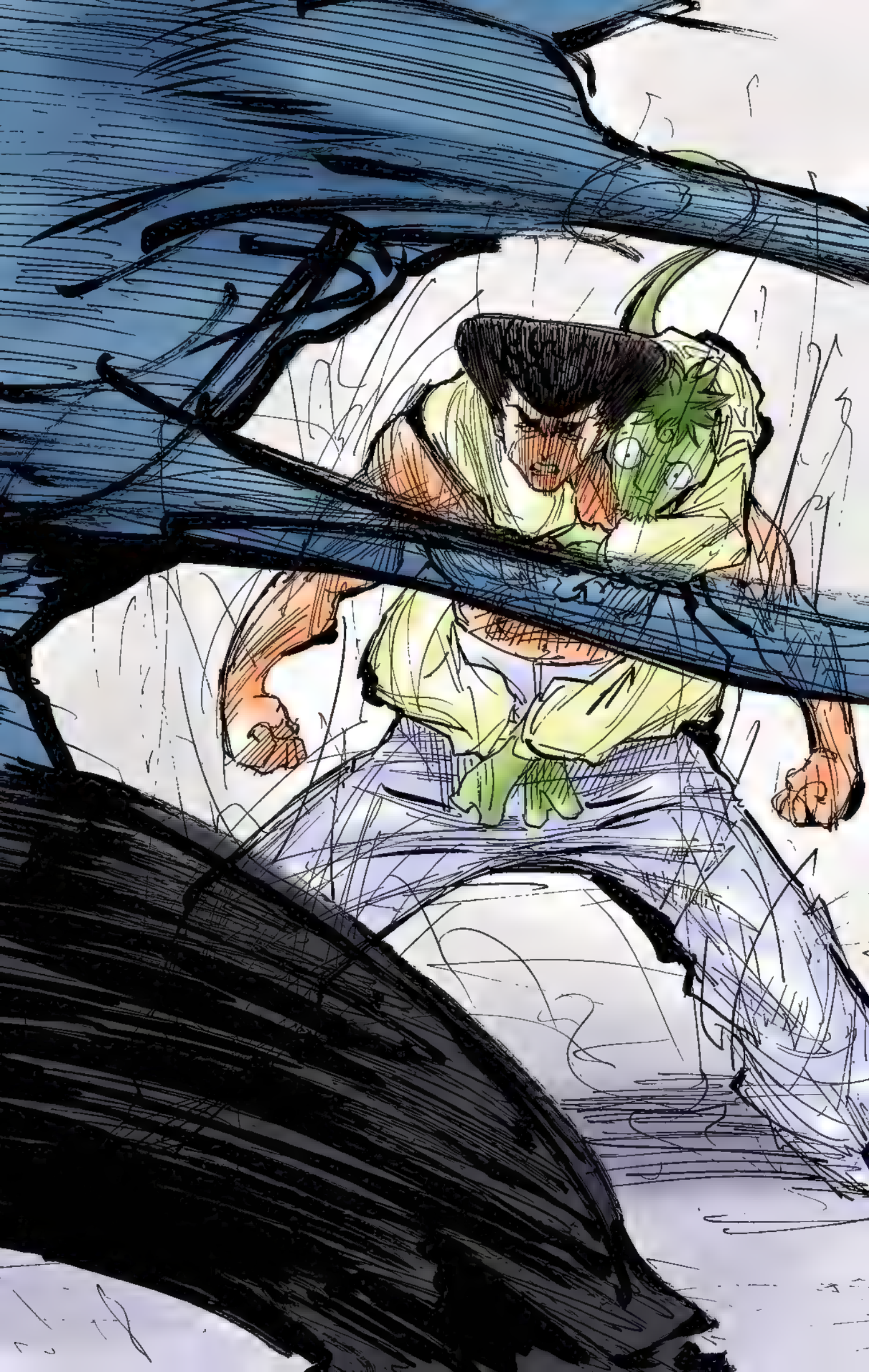
HE TOOK A STEP BACK DUE TO THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS ATTACKS.

...TORMENTED KNUCKLE.
.....

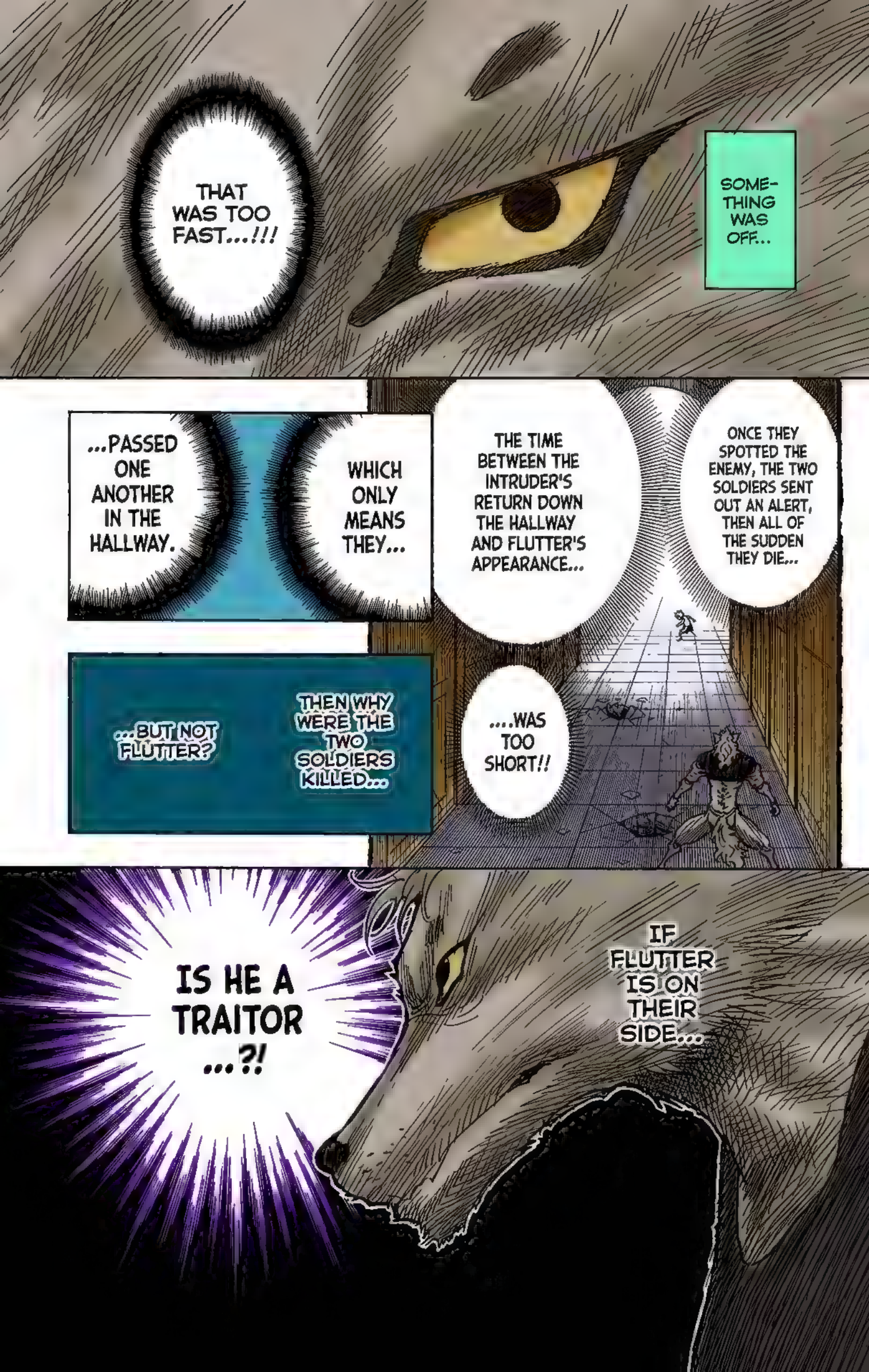

I CAN'T... STRIKE RIGHT NOW!!
ENDURE IT!!!


YOUPI'S KEPT FIGHTING WITH CAUTION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING WHAT'S LEFT OF SHOOT'S LIFE.
...I'D BE GIVING HIM PROOF THAT "THERE'S ONE MORE ENEMY HE NEEDS TO WORRY ABOUT"....!!
IF I ATTACK NOW...


KNUCKLE WAS FORCED TO WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES.
ENDURE IT!!!
COVERED IN BLOOD, SHOOT WAS TAKING THE BRUNT OF YOUPI'S FEROCIOUS BARRAGE OF ATTACKS.
PLEASE, JUST ENDURE IT!!!
ENDURE IT!!!
NO MATTER HOW HE TOLD HIMSELF TO KEEP STILL.
JUST REMAINING HIDDEN WAS HIS OWN BATTLE.
JUST HANG IN THERE !!!
...WAS UNABLE TO HOLD BACK THE TEARS STREAMING DOWN HIS FACE.
KNUCKLE ...



BOTH DOORS OPENED SIMULTA-NEOUSLY...
...IT WAS CHEETU AND BLOSTER.
...BECAUSE TO HIM, HE SENSED SOMETHING AMISS.
BUT FROM AFAR WELFIN SAW FLUTTER AND SLIPPED OUT OF SIGHT...


THAT WAS TOO FAST...!!!
SOME-THING WAS OFF...
...PASSED ONE ANOTHER IN THE HALLWAY.
WHICH ONLY MEANS THEY...
THE TIME BETWEEN THE INTRUDER'S RETURN DOWN THE HALLWAY AND FLUTTER'S APPEARANCE...
ONCE THEY SPOTTED THE ENEMY, THE TWO SOLDIERS SENT OUT AN ALERT, THEN ALL OF THE SUDDEN THEY DIE...
...BUT NOT FLUTTER?
THEN WHY WERE THE TWO SOLDIERS KILLED...
....WAS TOO SHORT!!
IS HE A TRAITOR ...?!
IF FLUTTER IS ON THEIR SIDE...

SIR PITOU'S "EN" DISAPPEARED AGAIN.

HUH?! HEY, IT'S FLUTTER!! WHAT'S WITH ALL THE NOISE?!

SERIOUSLY?!

IT SEEMS THE ENEMY IS ATTACKING...

I JUST RETURNED AS WELL...

WELL, I COULDN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING ELSE CAUSING THIS.

I LOST THEM EARLIER, DURING THE ATTACK.

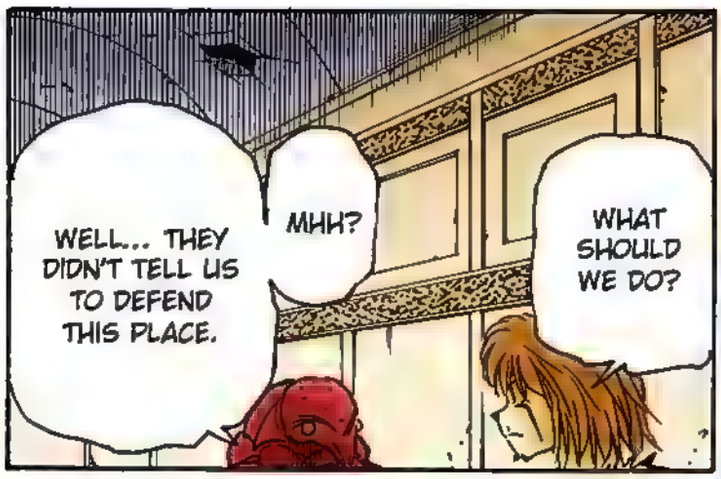
OH, UH...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WINGS?

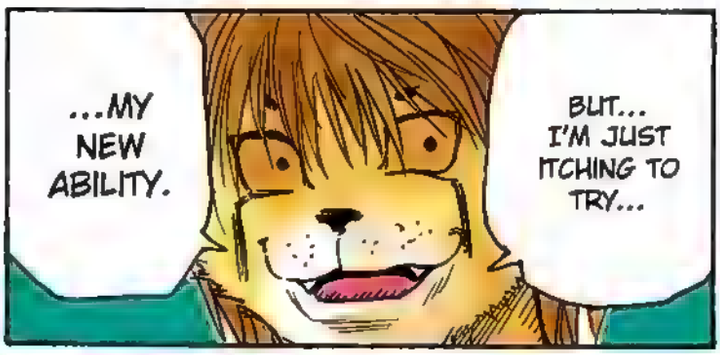
WAS IT UNDER HAGYA'S ORDERS?!

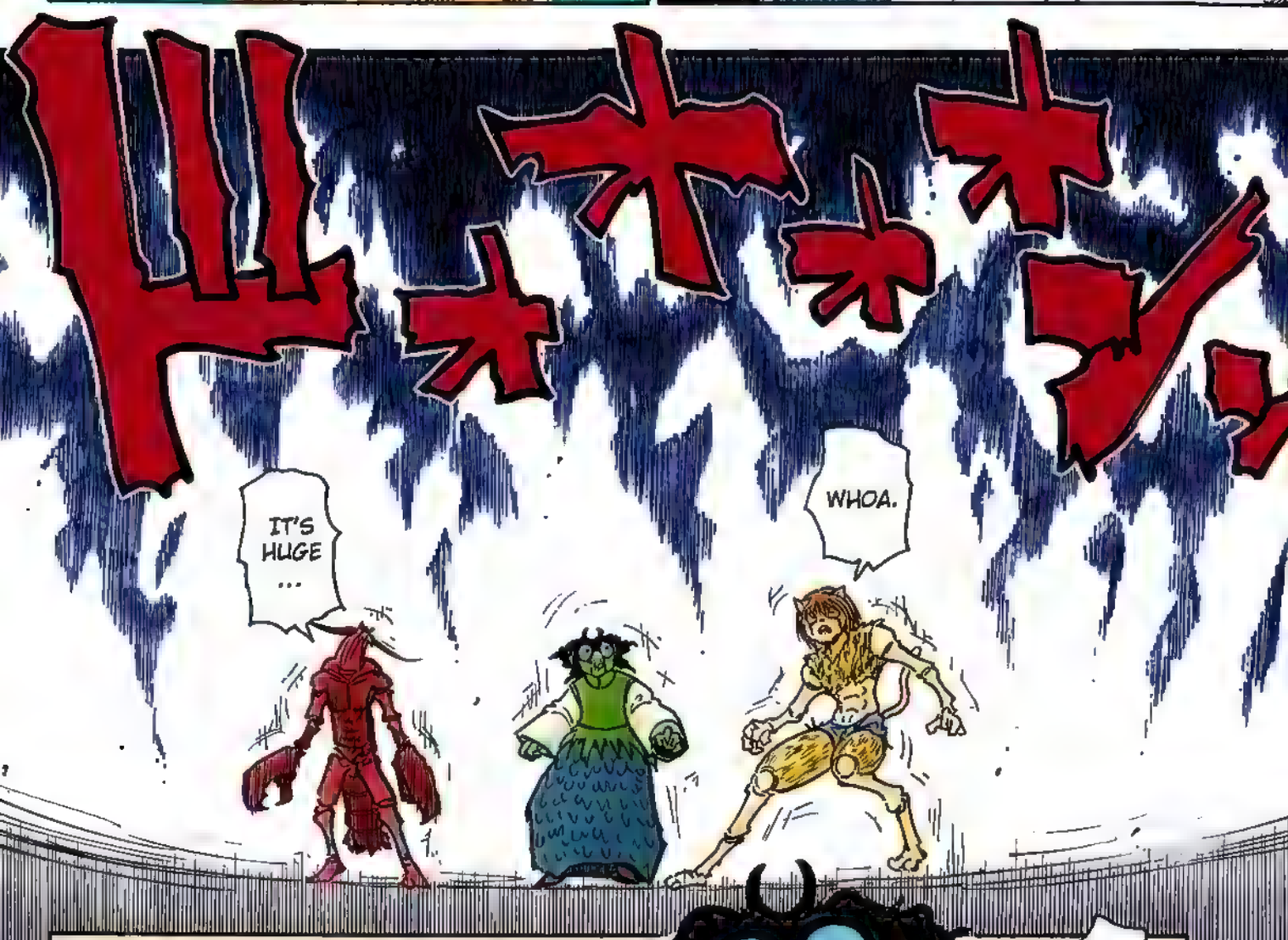
IS HE ACTING ON HIS OWN?! OR...

0:00:00:00


WELL... THEY DIDN'T TELL US TO DEFEND THIS PLACE.
MHH?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Y-
YES.
IT WAS AN ORDER FROM SIR HAGYA...
ARE YOU GOING UNDER-GROUND?


...MY NEW ABILITY.
BUT... I'M JUST ITCHING TO TRY...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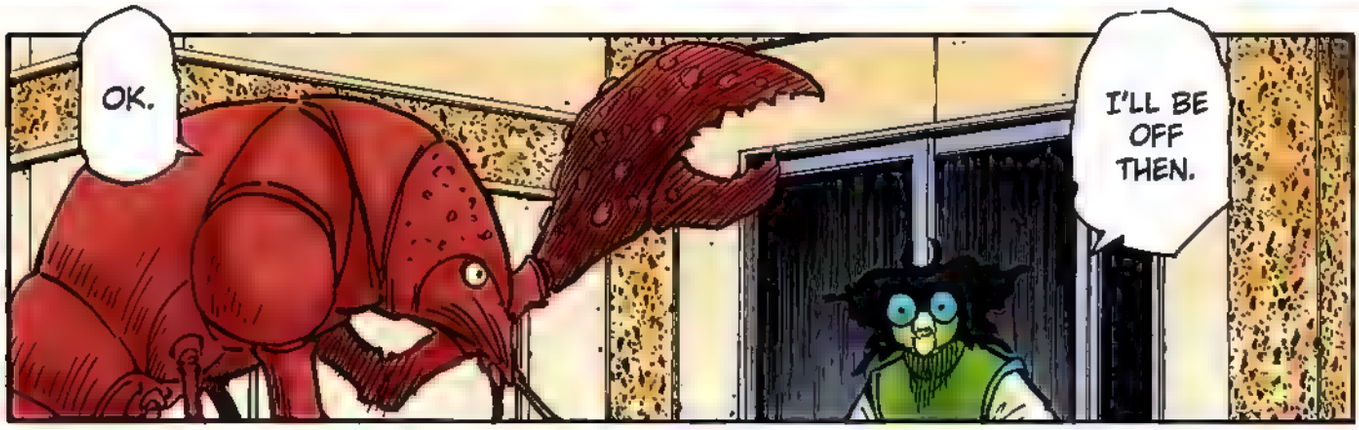
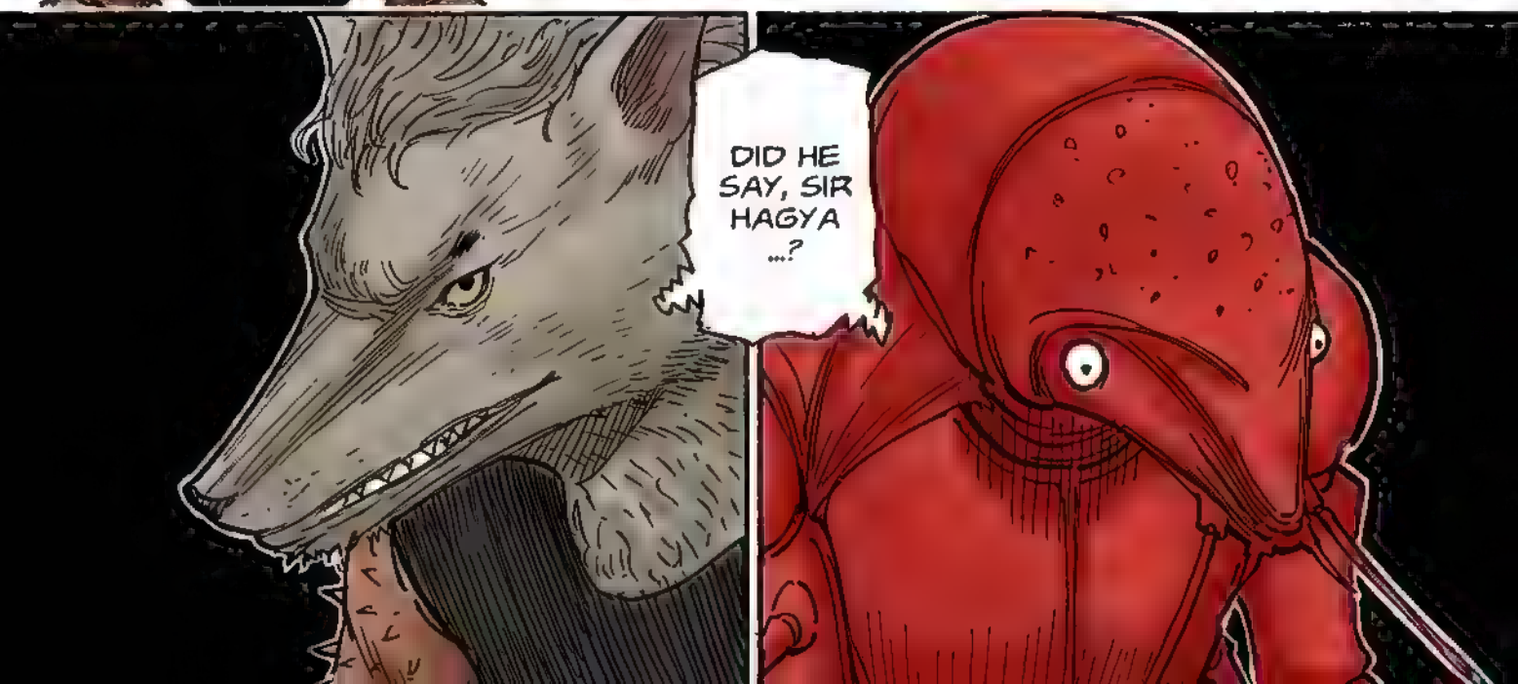
IT'S HUGE ...
WHOA.

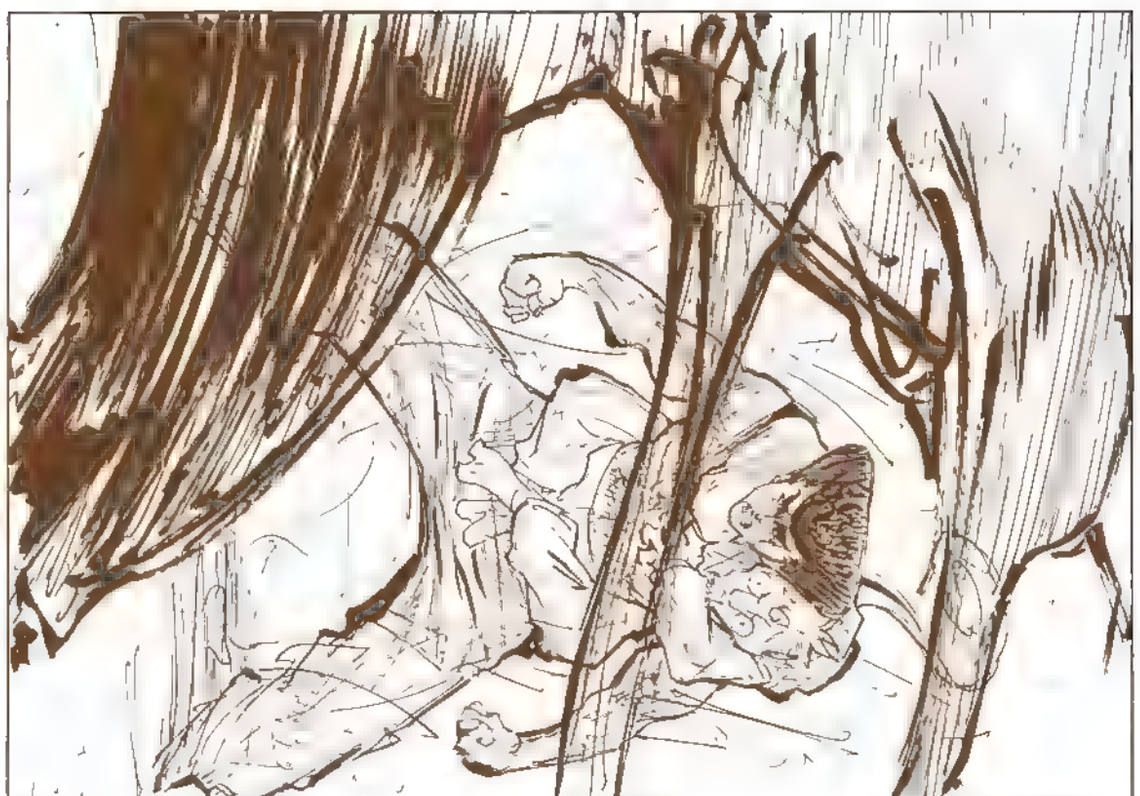
ゴゴゴゴ... ズズ...
.....

BE CAREFUL.
I'M GONNA GO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.
I'M GONNA GO CHECK IT OUT!!!
THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN!!


OK.
I'LL BE OFF THEN.

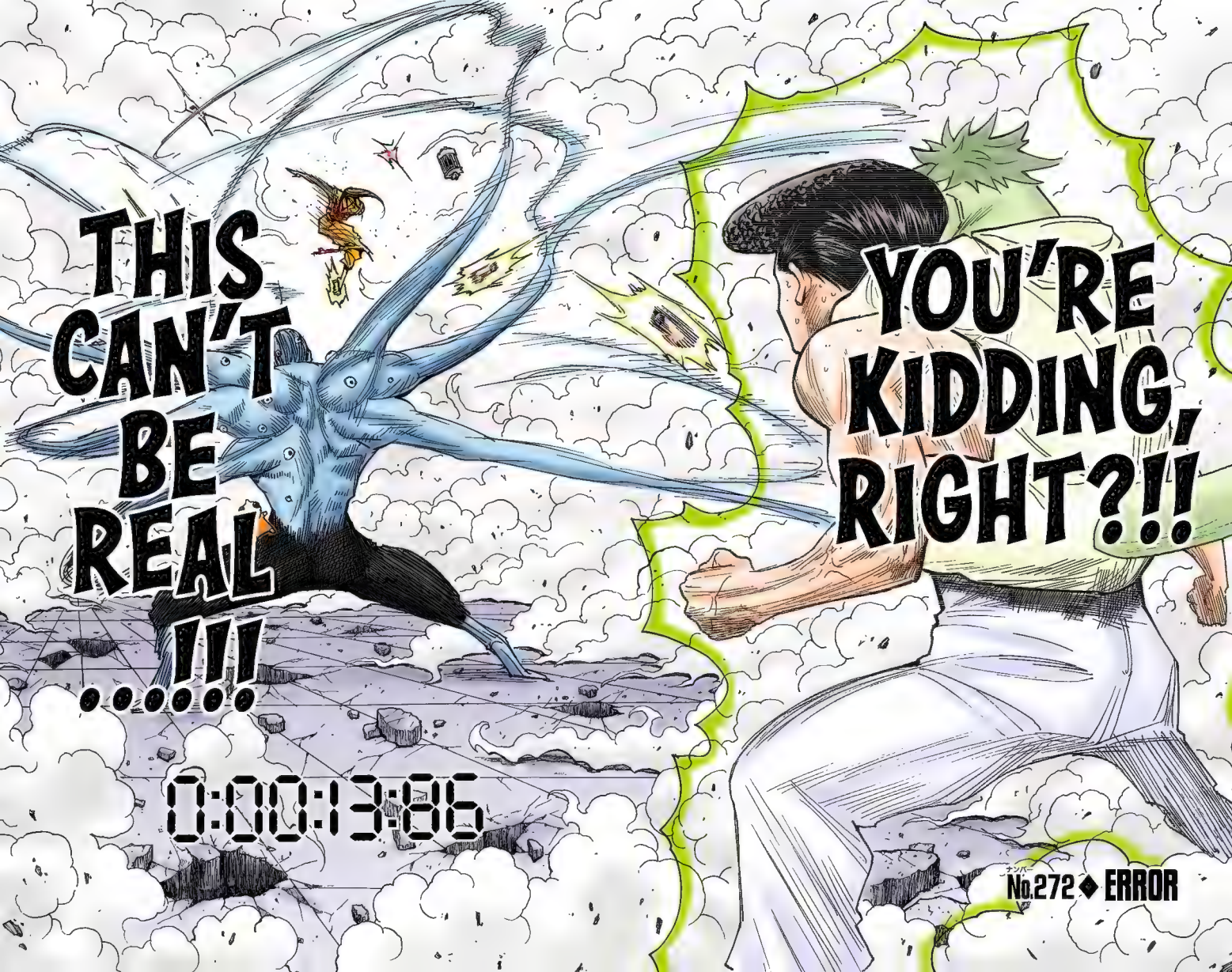
.....


DID HE SAY, SIR HAGYA ...?



HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO ENDURE THIS?!

IT'S TAKING ALL MY WILL-POWER NOT TO RUN AWAY... IT FEELS LIKE I'M SUFFOCATING ON A BED OF NAILS!


THIS CAN'T BE REAL !!! .....
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!!
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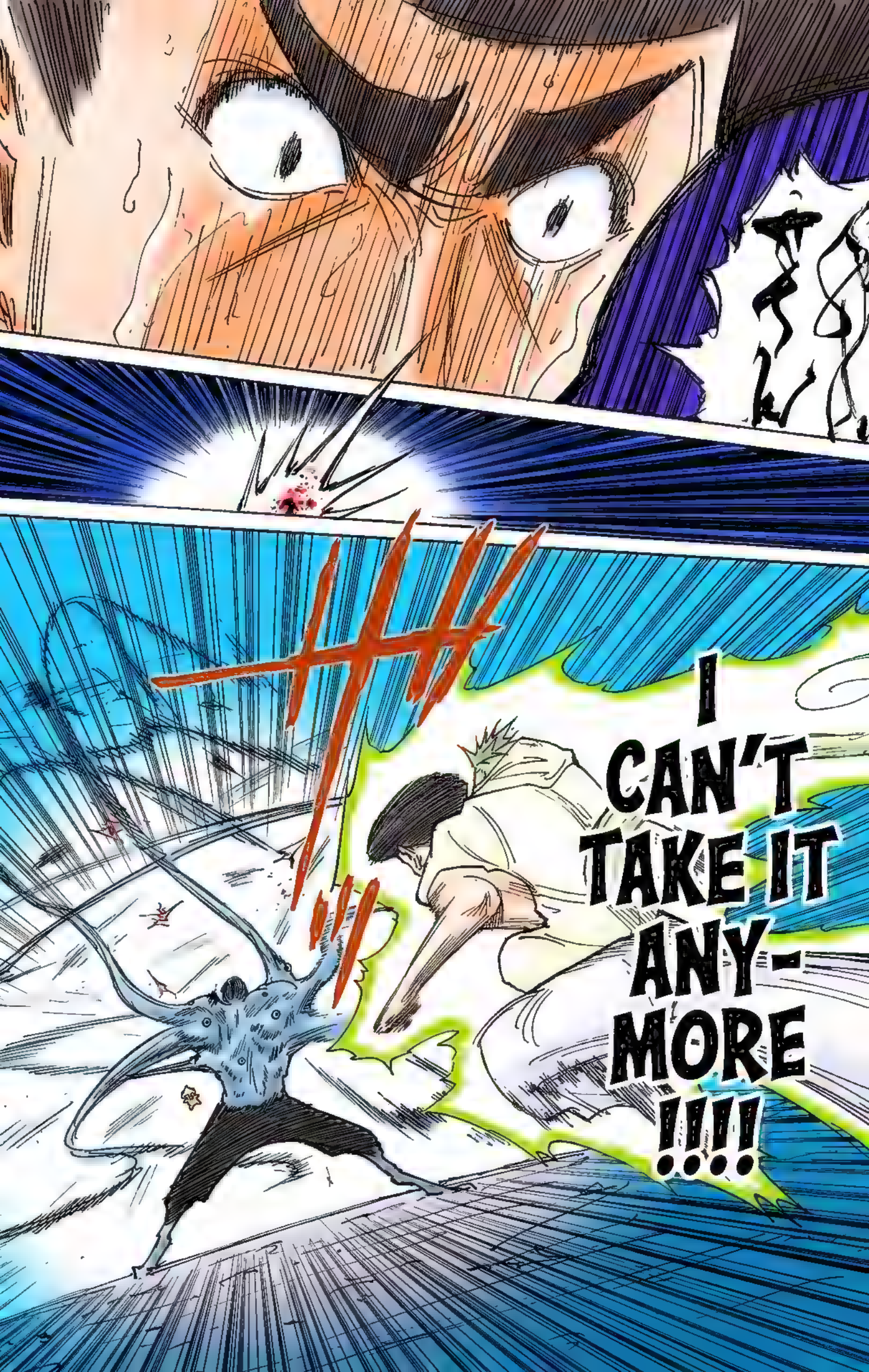
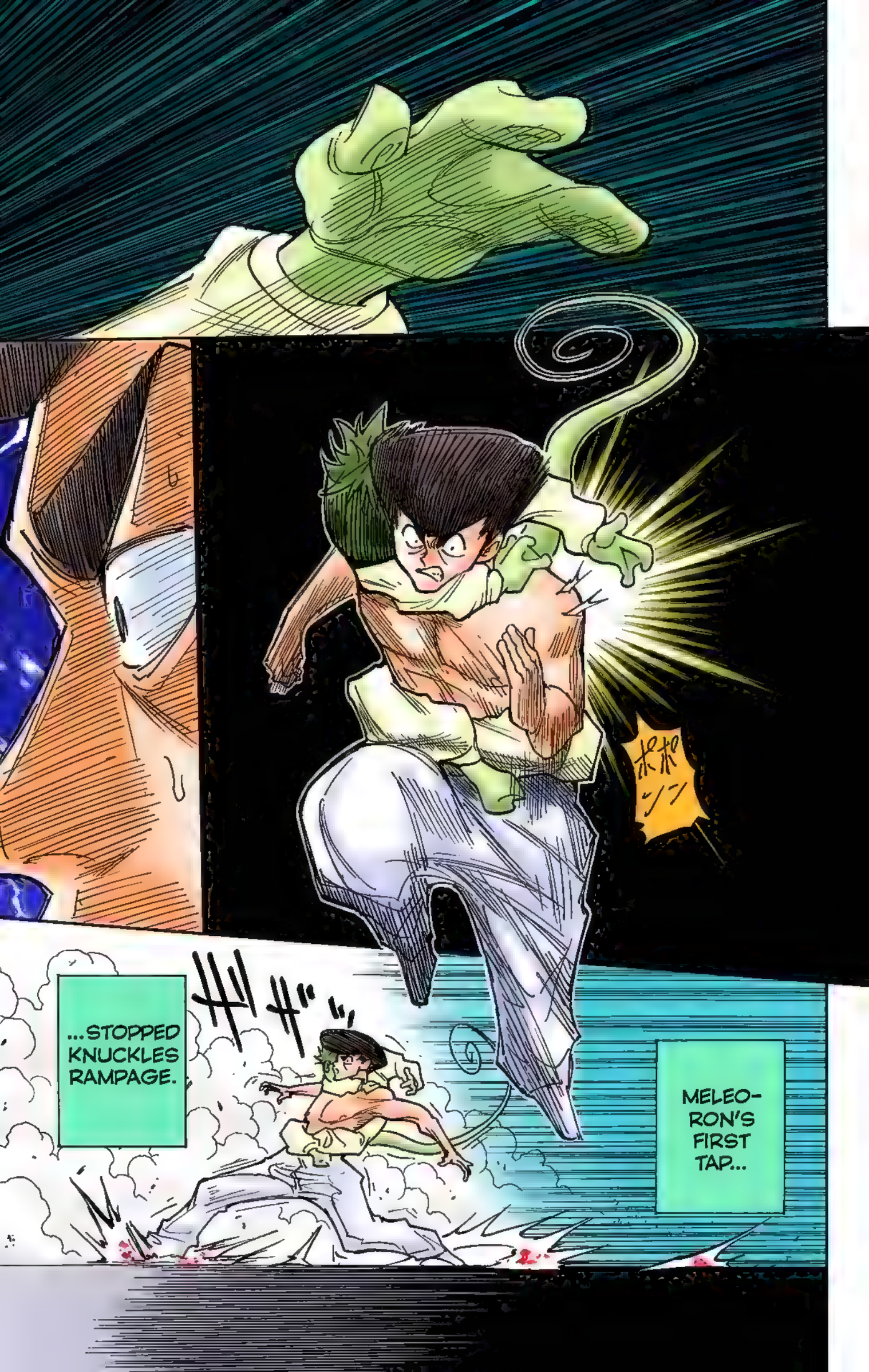
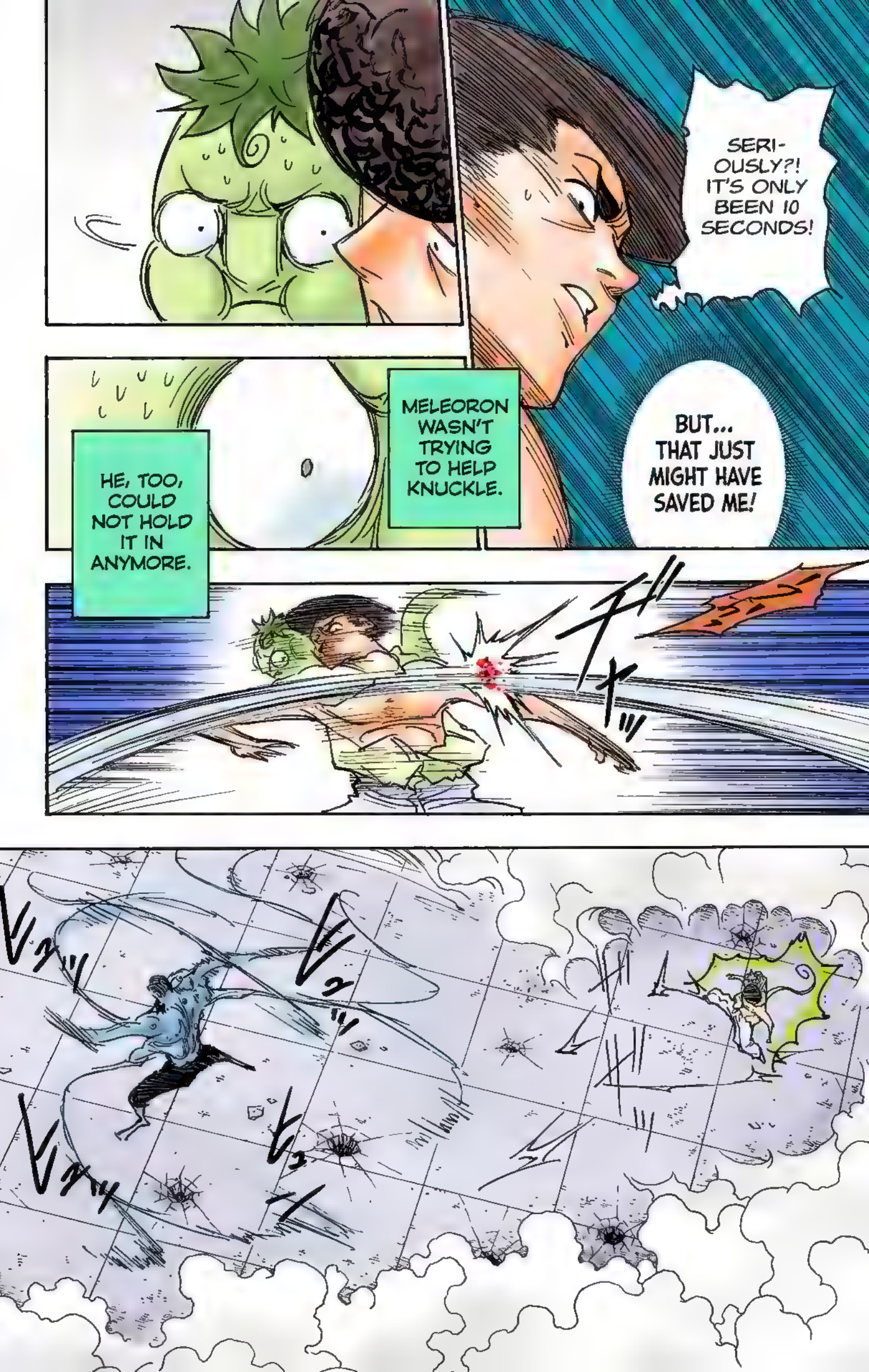
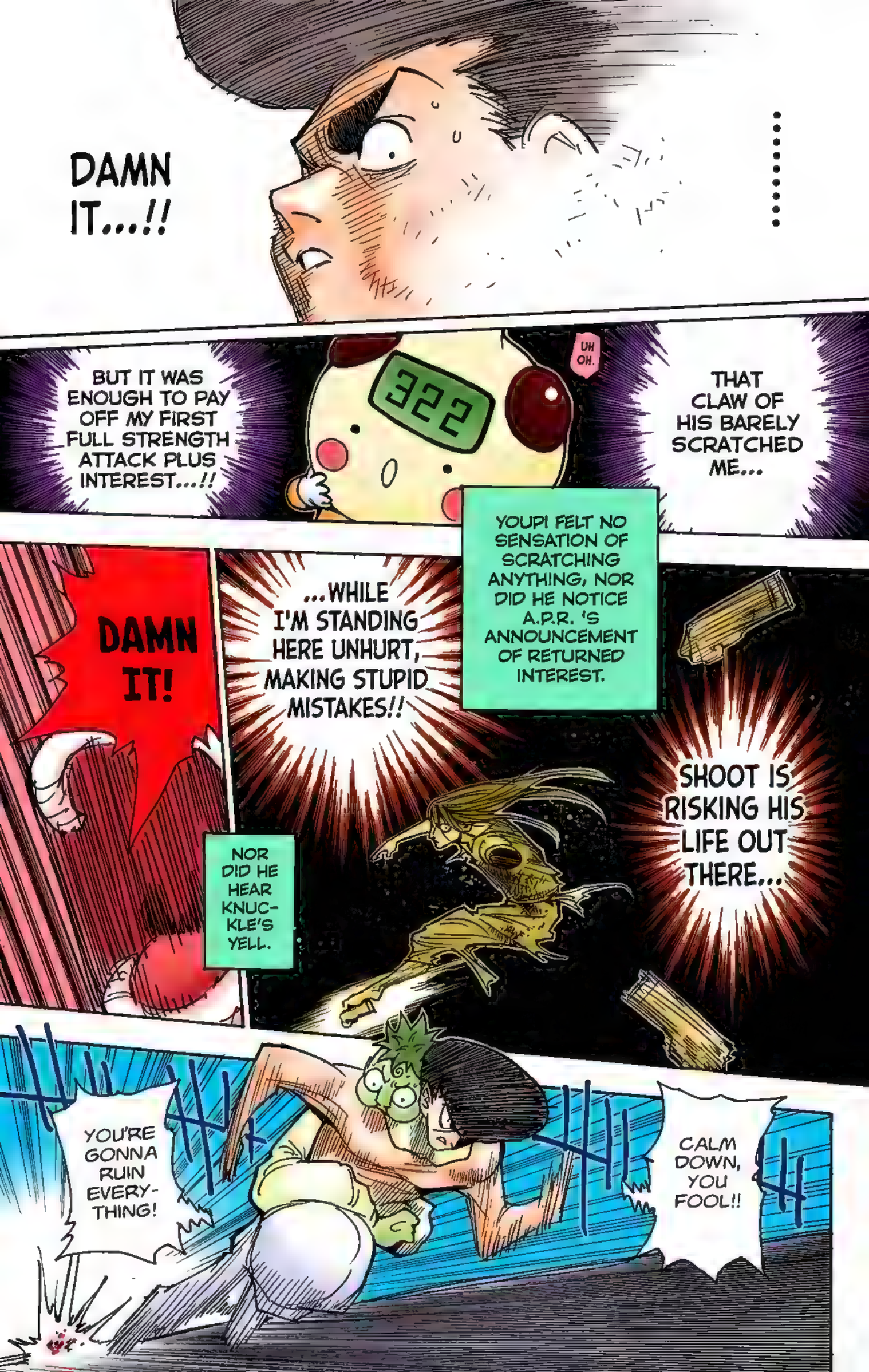
No.272 ◆ ERROR


I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE !!!!

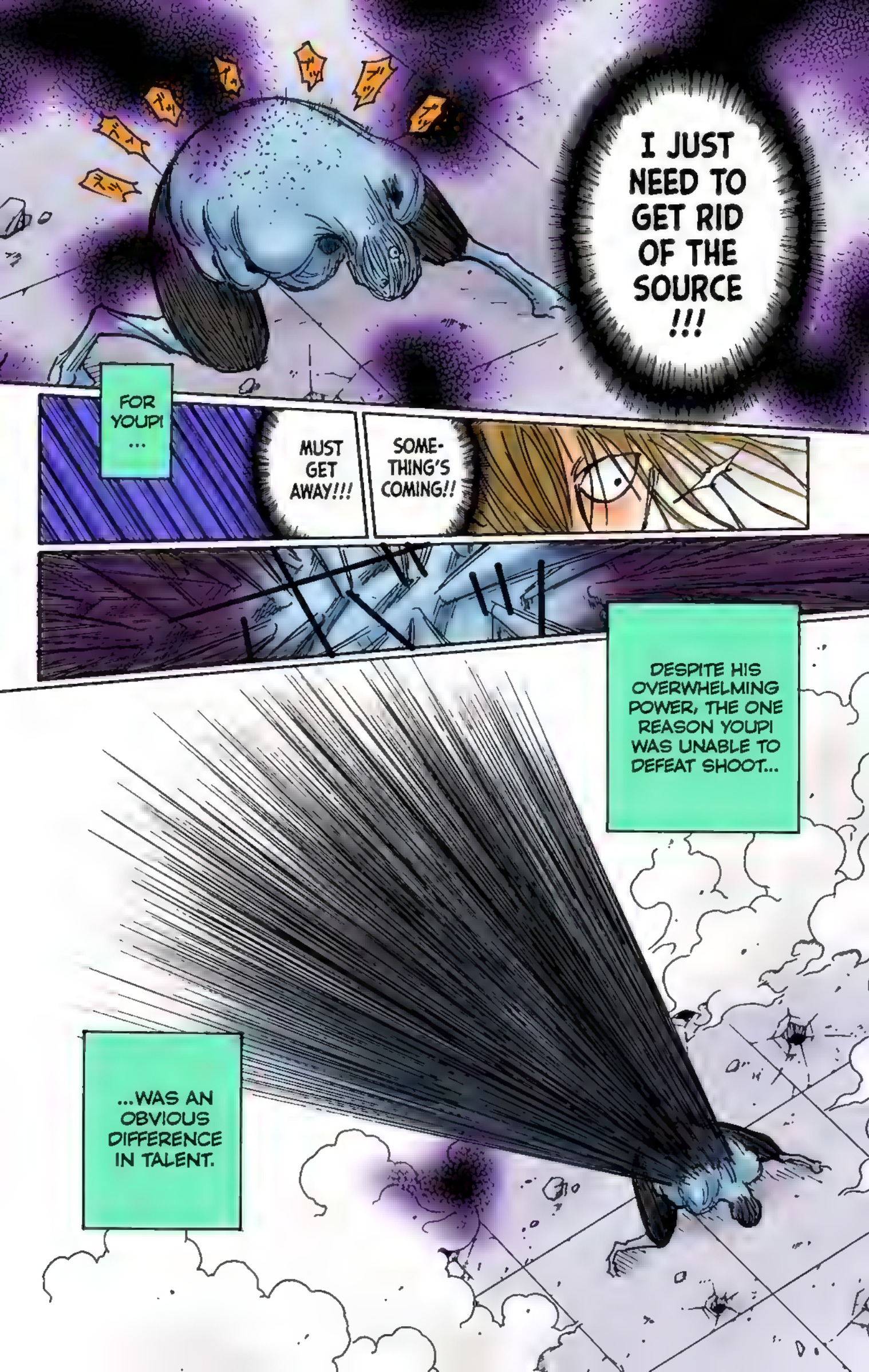

...STOPPED KNUCKLES RAMPAGE.
MELEO-RON'S FIRST TAP...


SERI-OUSLY?! IT'S ONLY BEEN 10 SECONDS!
BUT... THAT JUST MIGHT HAVE SAVED ME!
MELEORON WASN'T TRYING TO HELP KNUCKLE.
HE, TOO, COULD NOT HOLD IT IN ANYMORE.


DAMN IT...!!
BUT IT WAS ENOUGH TO PAY OFF MY FIRST FULL STRENGTH ATTACK PLUS INTEREST...!!
322
UH OH.
THAT CLAW OF HIS BARELY SCRATCHED ME...
DAMN IT!
...WHILE I'M STANDING HERE UNHURT, MAKING STUPID MISTAKES!!
YOUP! FELT NO SENSATION OF SCRATCHING ANYTHING, NOR DID HE NOTICE A.P.R. 'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETURNED INTEREST.
NOR DID HE HEAR KNUC-KLE'S YELL.
SHOOT IS RISKING HIS LIFE OUT THERE...
YOU'RE GONNA RUIN EVERY-THING!
CALM DOWN, YOU FOOL!!

HE'LL NOTICE A.P.R. FOR A SECOND, BUT THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!!
THIS IS HOW FAR WE WANT TO BE, FAR ENOUGH TO NOT GET CAUGHT...
SHOOT IS FIGHTING HARD...
SO GO AHEAD AND CATCH YOUR BREATH, MELEORON!!
BUT CLOSE ENOUGH TO GO BACK TO THE FIGHT EASILY!!
TERMINATE!!
GOD'S ACCOMPLICE ...

!?
WHEN DID IT SHOW UP...?
WHAT IS THIS THING?!
WAS IT A DELAYED EFFECT...? IT MUST BE THE THING FROM BACK THEN...!!
OR DID IT FULFILL THE ACTIVATION CONDITION DURING BATTLE?!
WAS I ATTACKED?! NO, I WASN'T...!!
IT JUST SUDDENLY APPEARED !!
322
THERE'S NO WAY I DIDN'T NOTICE IT BEFORE!!
?
?
THIS IS TOO MUCH OF A PAIN!!
NO, THE NUMBER ISN'T CHANGING.
WHAT IS THIS NUMBER?! IS IT A COUNT-DOWN?! IS IT A BOMB?!


I JUST NEED TO GET RID OF THE SOURCE !!!
FOR YOUPI ...
MUST GET AWAY!!!
SOME-THING'S COMING!!
DESPITE HIS OVERWHELMING POWER, THE ONE REASON YOUPI WAS UNABLE TO DEFEAT SHOOT...
...WAS AN OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE IN TALENT.

I CAN'T GET AWAY ...!!!
IT'S FAST!!
COMING RIGHT UP!!!
ONE MEAT SKEWER ...
.....

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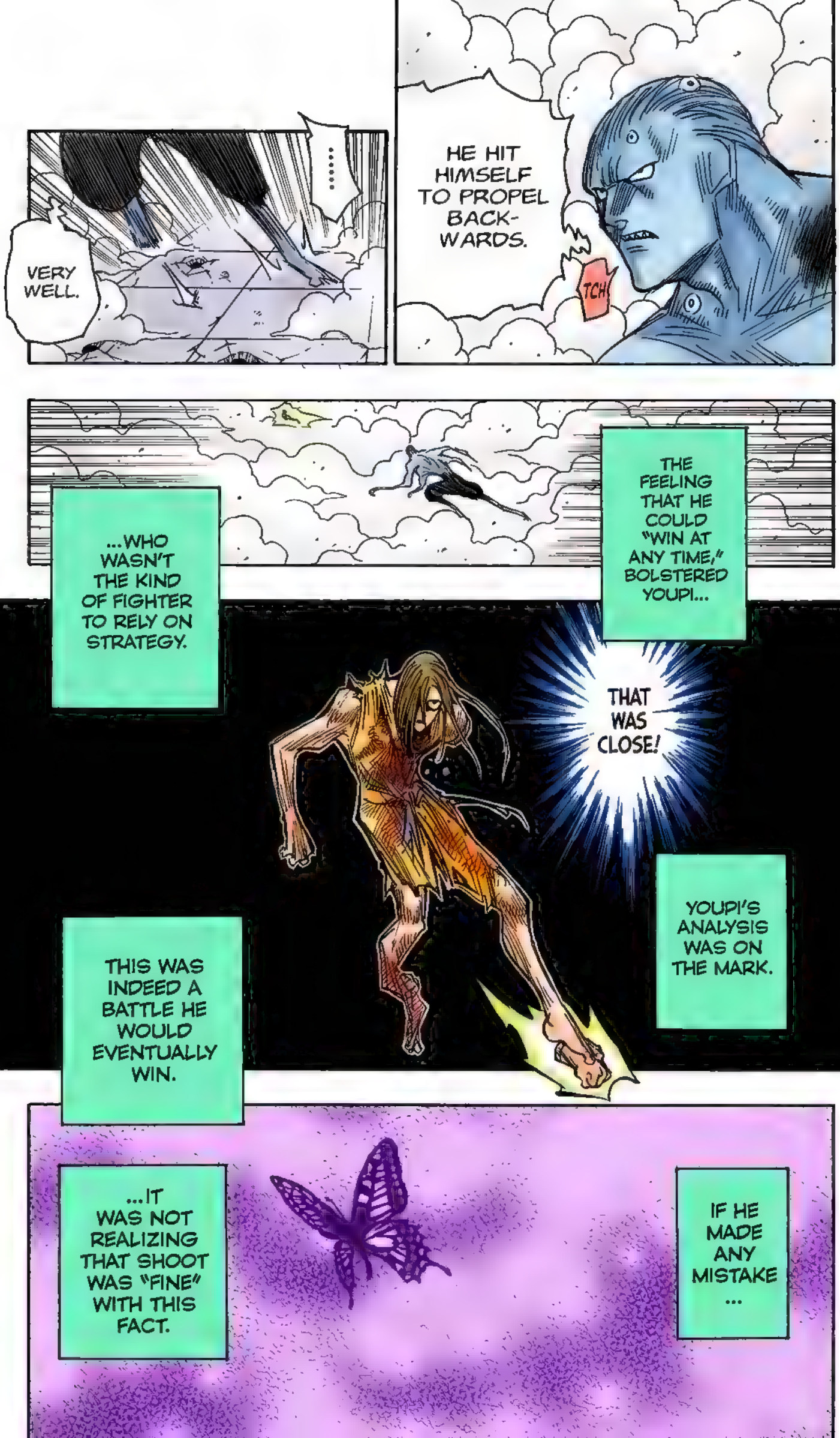
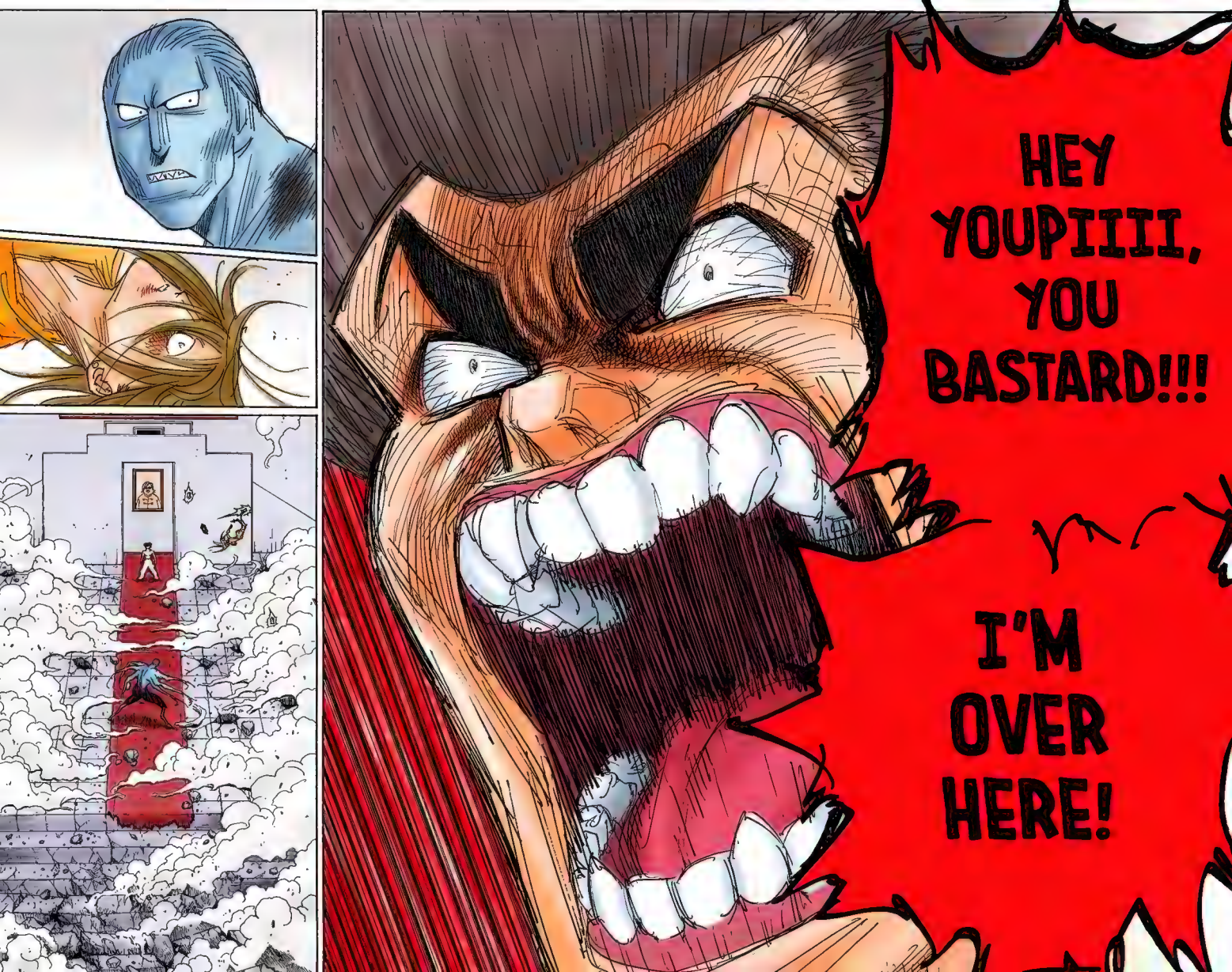

VERY WELL.
.....
HE HIT HIMSELF TO PROPEL BACK-WARDS.
TCH
...WHO WASN'T THE KIND OF FIGHTER TO RELY ON STRATEGY.
THE FEELING THAT HE COULD "WIN AT ANY TIME," BOLSTERED YOUPI...
THAT WAS CLOSE!
THIS WAS INDEED A BATTLE HE WOULD EVENTUALLY WIN.
YOUPI'S ANALYSIS WAS ON THE MARK.
...IT WAS NOT REALIZING THAT SHOOT WAS "FINE" WITH THIS FACT.
IF HE MADE ANY MISTAKE ...

...SHOOT WAS REACHING HIS LIMITS.
I CAN...
I CAN STILL FLY...!!!!
YET, SLOWLY BUT SURELY...
I CAN STILL FIGHT!!
I...


HEY YOUPIIII, YOU BASTARD!!!
I'M OVER HERE!

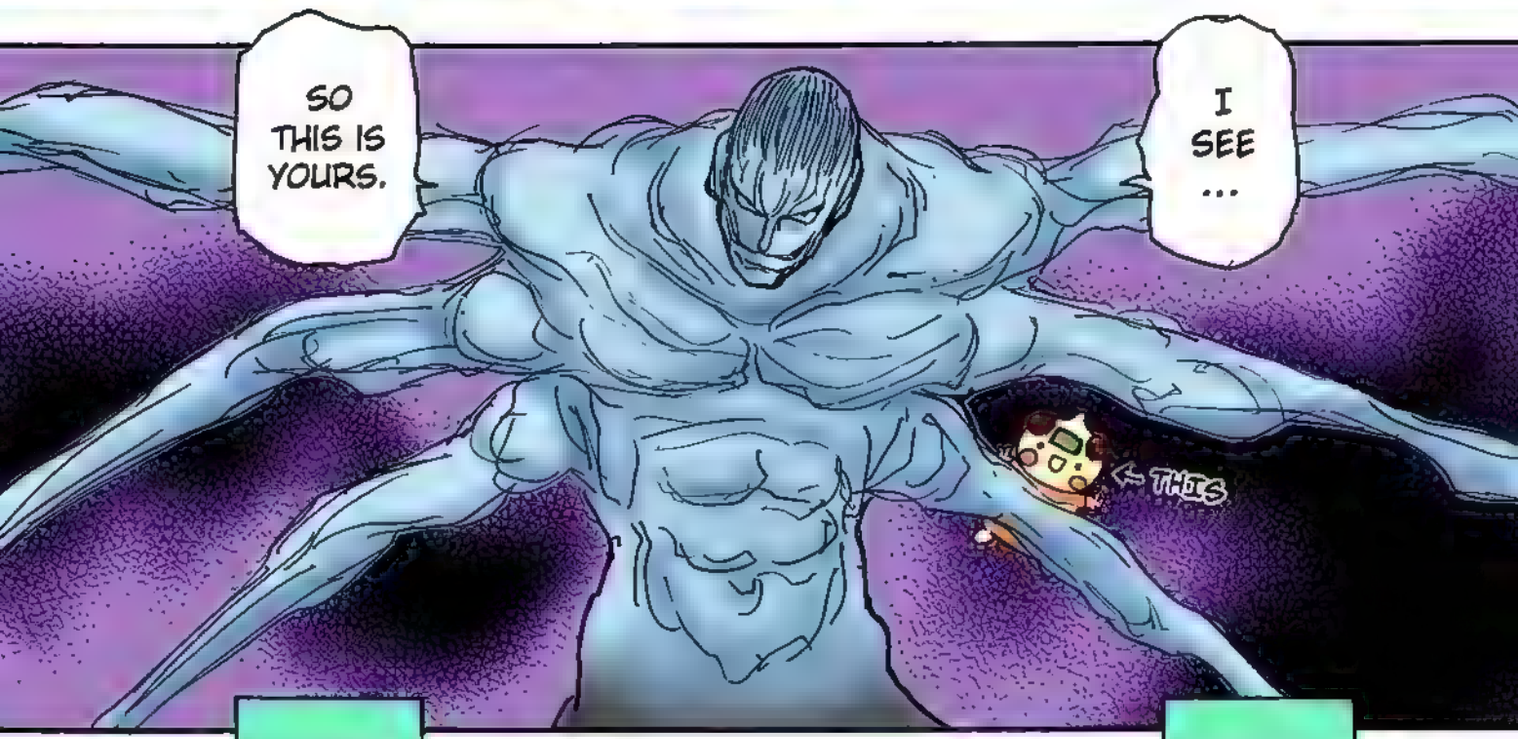
AS KNUCKLE COOLED DOWN, HE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION...

KNUCKLE ...

...TO REVEAL HIMSELF.

THAT'S FINE BY ME!!

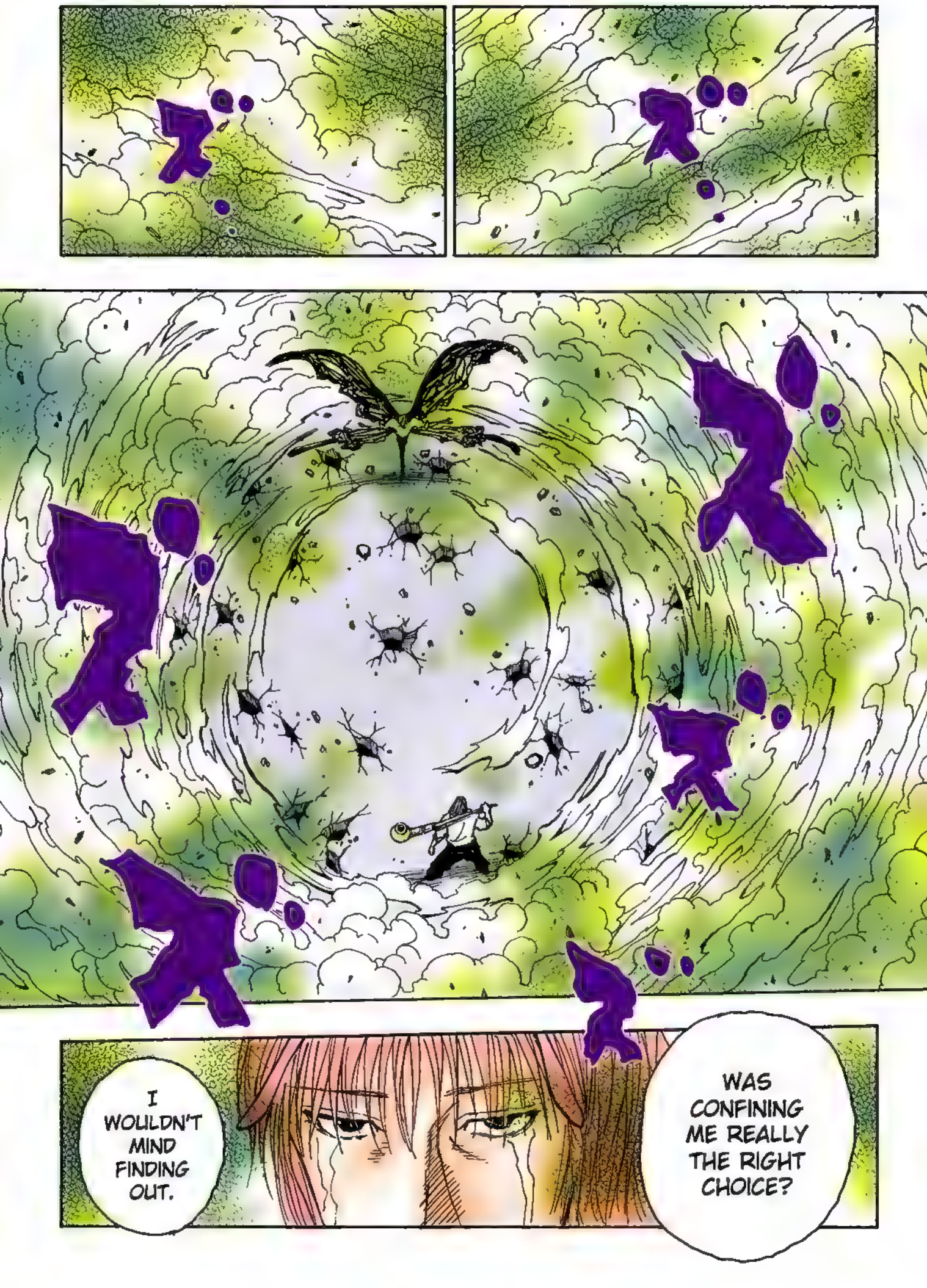
I'D BE GIVING HIM PROOF THAT THERE'S ONE MORE ENEMY HE NEEDS TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT?!

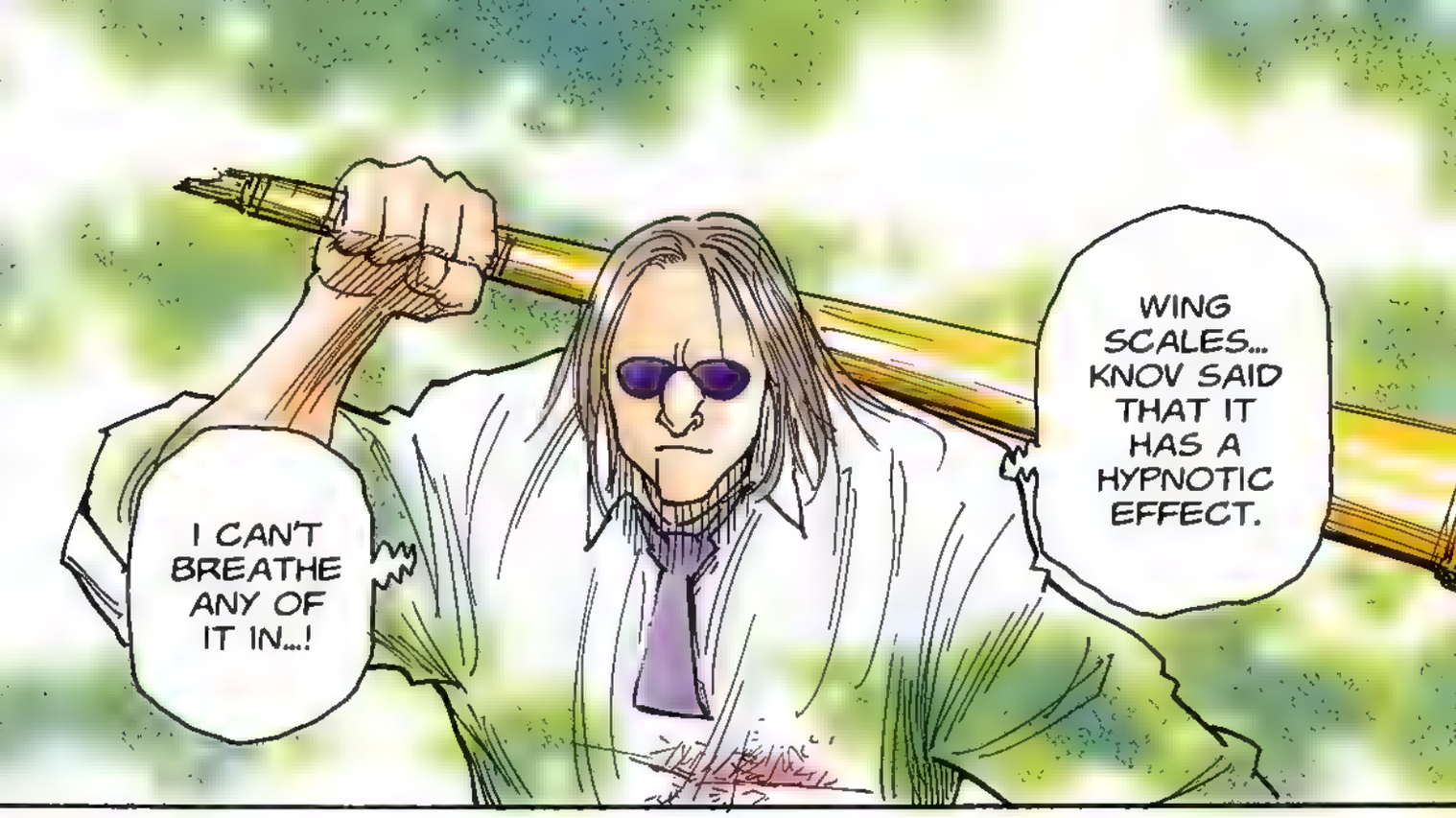


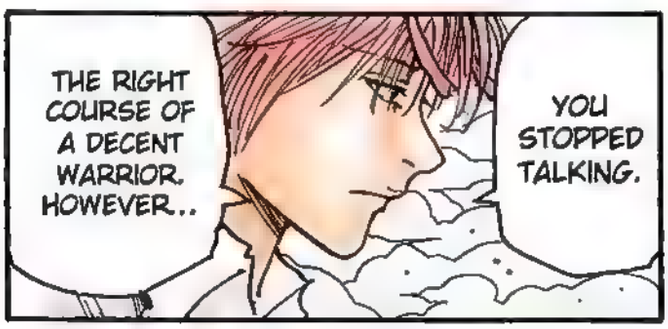
IF THERE WAS AN ERROR IN HIS THINKING...

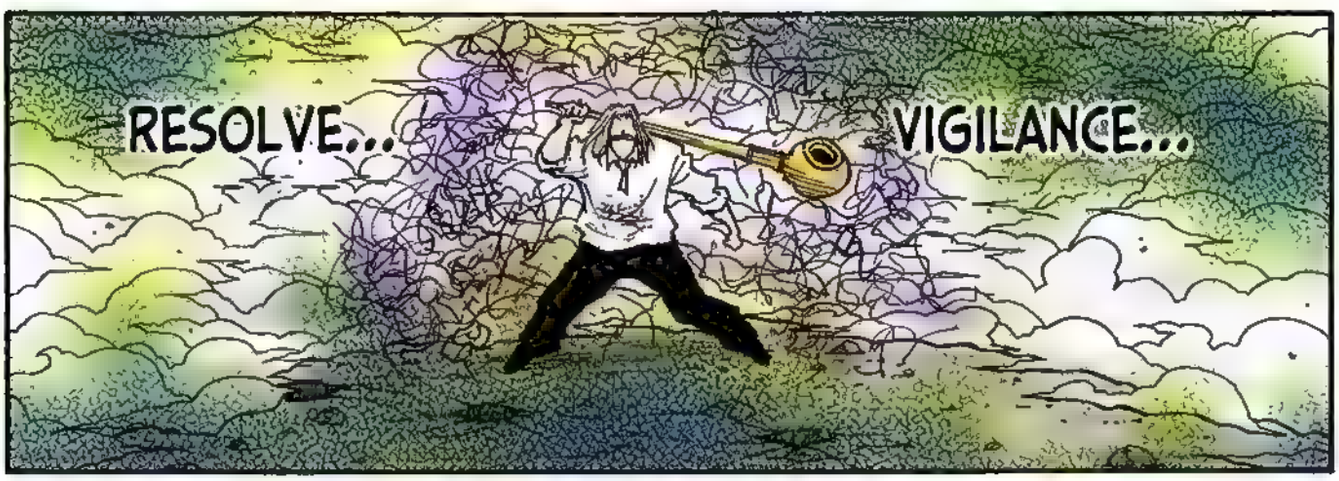
KNUCKLE WAS MORE OR LESS CORRECT.

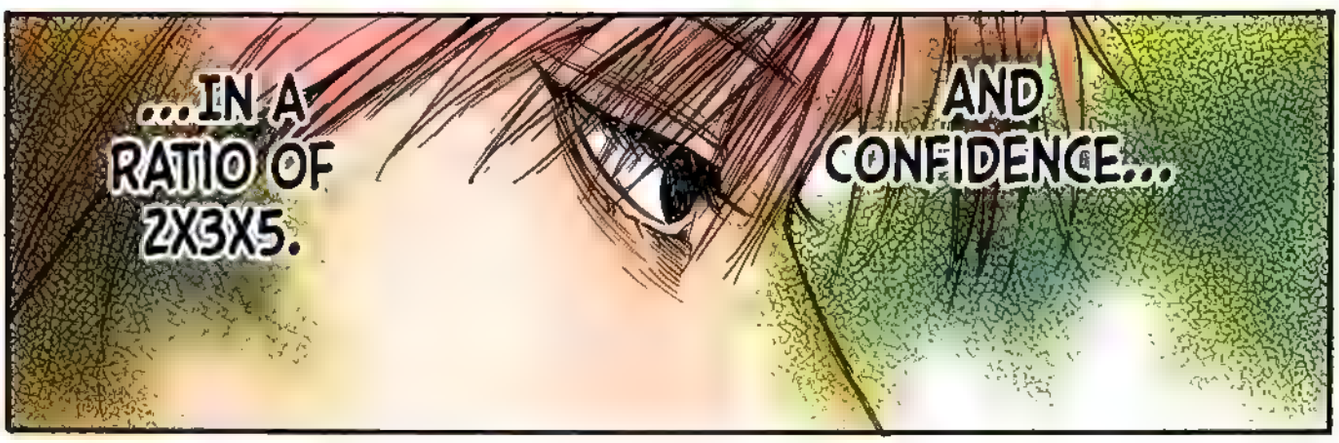
No.273 ◆ WE MEET AGAIN

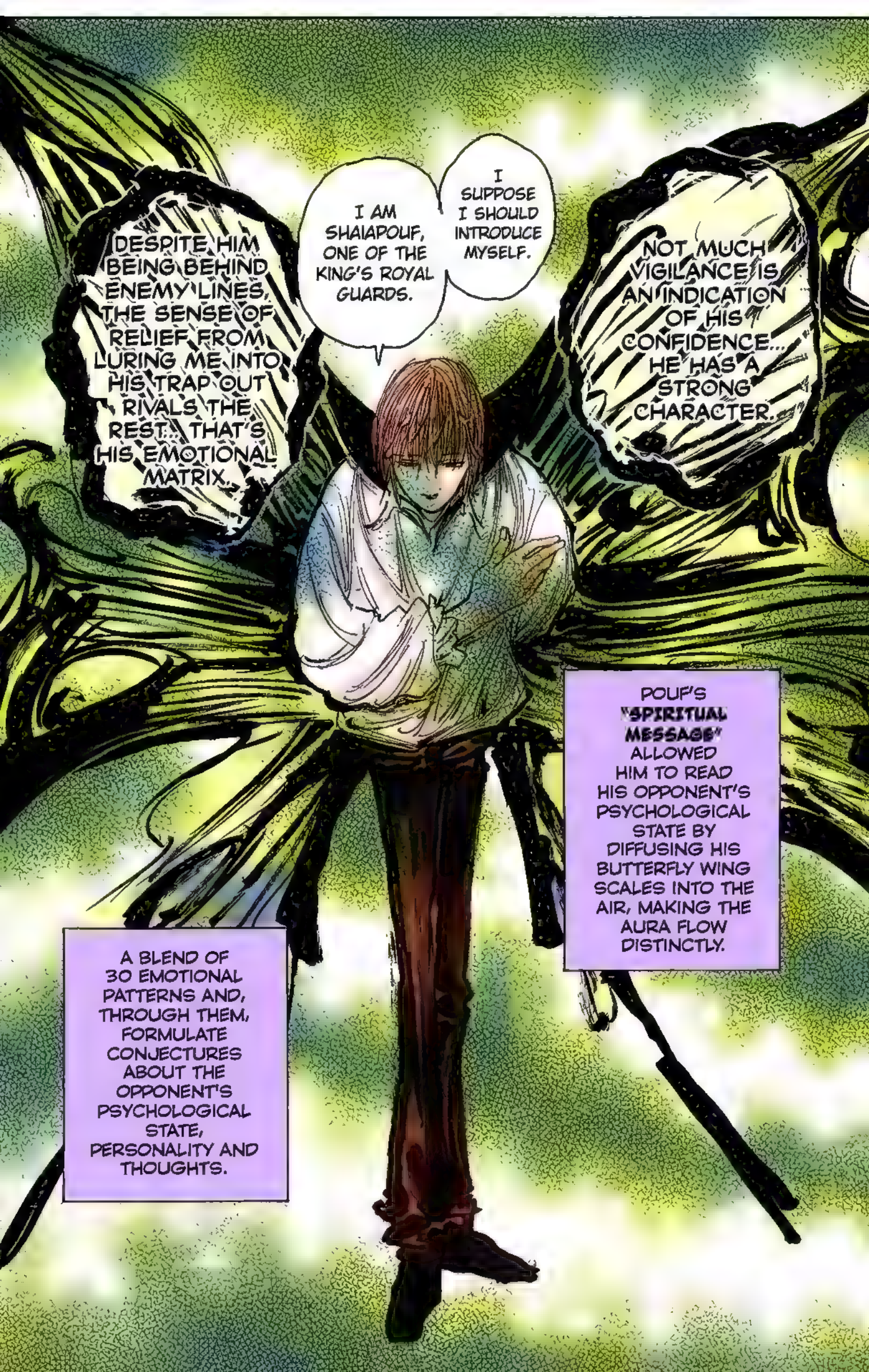



I CAN'T BREATHE ANY OF IT IN...!
WING SCALES... KNOV SAID THAT IT HAS A HYPNOTIC EFFECT.

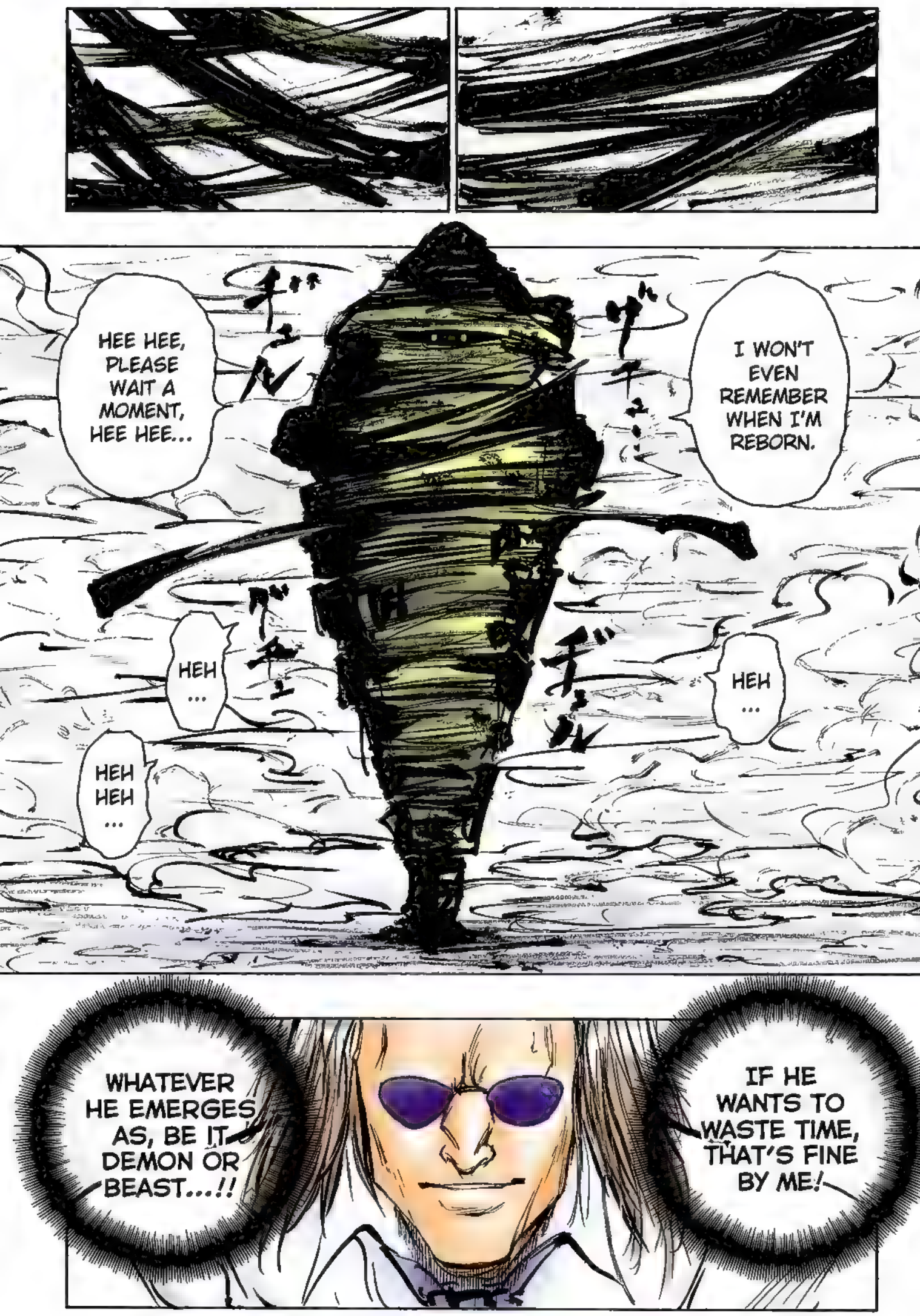

THE RIGHT COURSE OF A DECENT WARRIOR. HOWEVER...
YOU STOPPED TALKING.

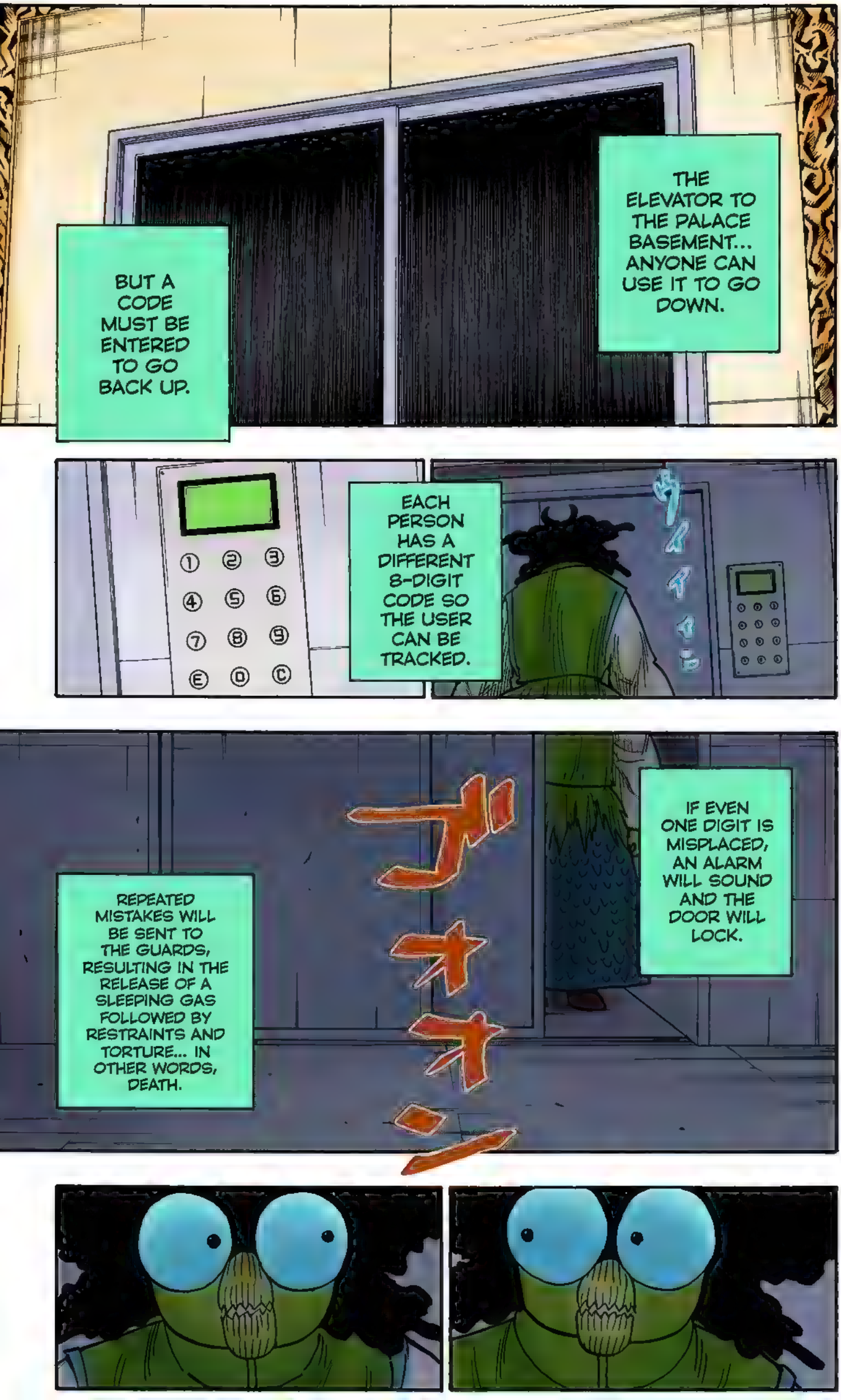

RESOLVE...
VIGILANCE...


...IN A RATIO OF 2X3X5.
AND CONFIDENCE...


DESPITE HIM BEING BEHIND ENEMY LINES, THE SENSE OF RELIEF FROM LURING ME INTO HIS TRAP OUT RIVALS THE REST... THAT'S HIS EMOTIONAL MATRIX.
I AM SHAIAPOUF, ONE OF THE KING'S ROYAL GUARDS.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF.
NOT MUCH VIGILANCE IS AN INDICATION OF HIS CONFIDENCE... HE HAS A STRONG CHARACTER.
POUF'S "SPIRITUAL MESSAGE" ALLOWED HIM TO READ HIS OPPONENT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE BY DIFFUSING HIS BUTTERFLY WING SCALES INTO THE AIR, MAKING THE AURA FLOW DISTINCTLY.
A BLEND OF 30 EMOTIONAL PATTERNS AND, THROUGH THEM, FORMULATE CONJECTURES ABOUT THE OPPONENT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE, PERSONALITY AND THOUGHTS.

YOU WON'T TELL ME YOUR NAME.
HEH.
THE SWIRL OF VIGILANCE HAS GROWN STRONGER...
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT I'M TRYING TO TRICK YOU INTO INHALING THE SCALES, YOU'RE SADLY MISTAKEN.
I'M RATHER HURT...
THAT'S ALL.


HEE HEE, PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT, HEE HEE...
I WON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHEN I'M REBORN.
HEH ...
HEH ...
HEH HEH ...
WHATEVER HE EMERGES AS, BE IT DEMON OR BEAST...!!
IF HE WANTS TO WASTE TIME, THAT'S FINE BY ME!


THE ELEVATOR TO THE PALACE BASEMENT... ANYONE CAN USE IT TO GO DOWN.
BUT A CODE MUST BE ENTERED TO GO BACK UP.
EACH PERSON HAS A DIFFERENT 8-DIGIT CODE SO THE USER CAN BE TRACKED.
IF EVEN ONE DIGIT IS MISPLACED, AN ALARM WILL SOUND AND THE DOOR WILL LOCK.
REPEATED MISTAKES WILL BE SENT TO THE GUARDS, RESULTING IN THE RELEASE OF A SLEEPING GAS FOLLOWED BY RESTRAINTS AND TORTURE... IN OTHER WORDS, DEATH.
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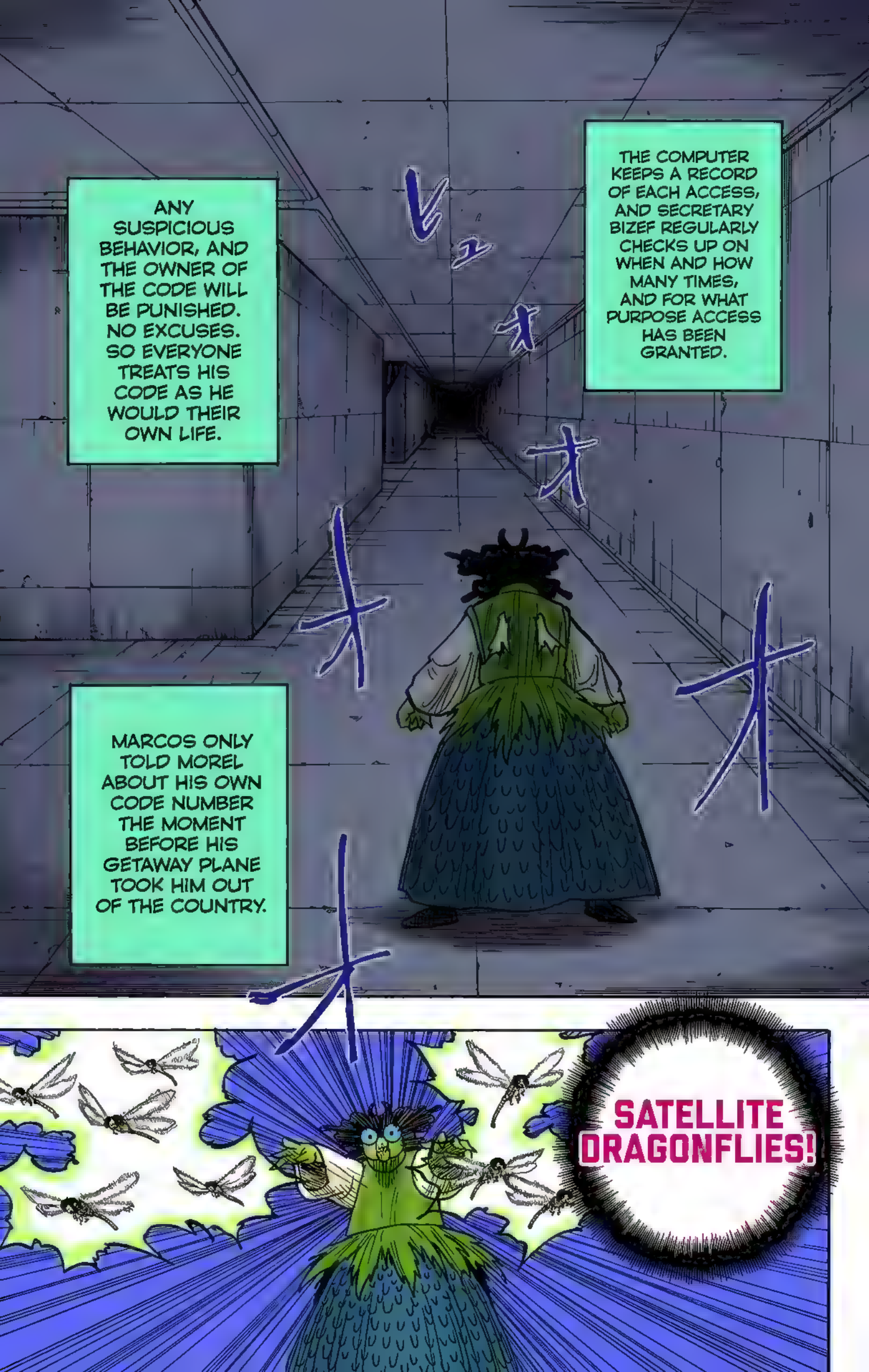
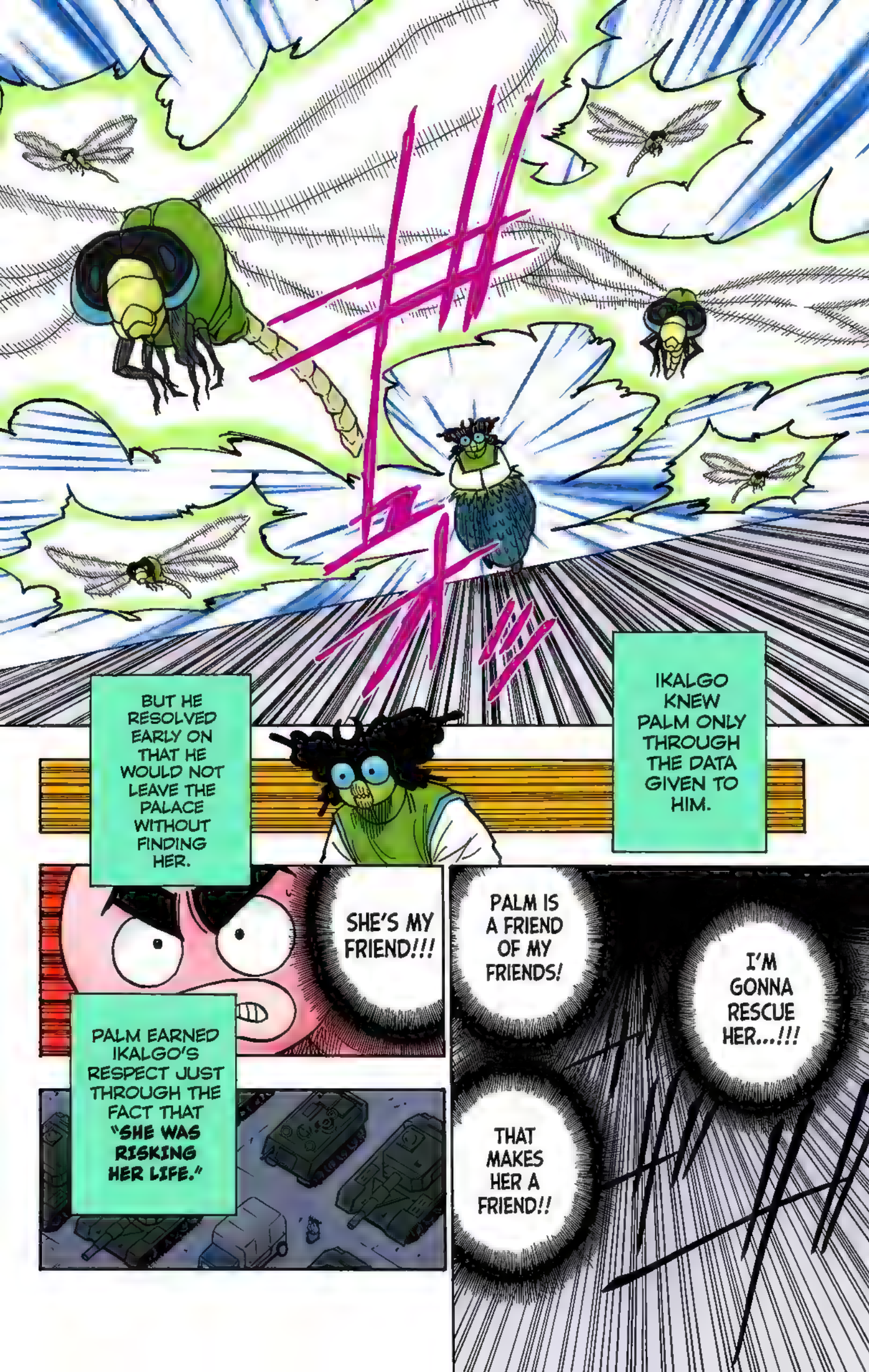
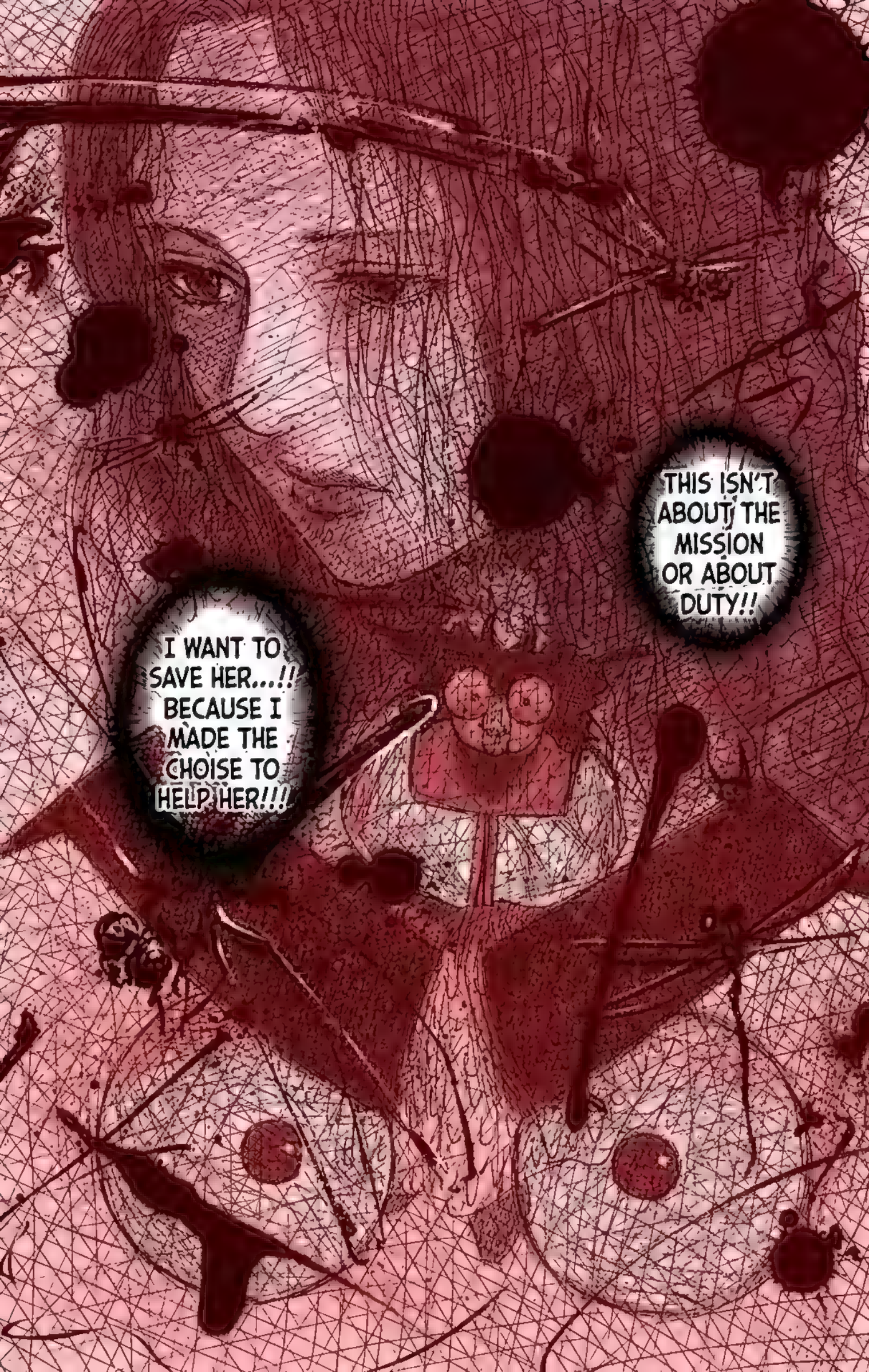
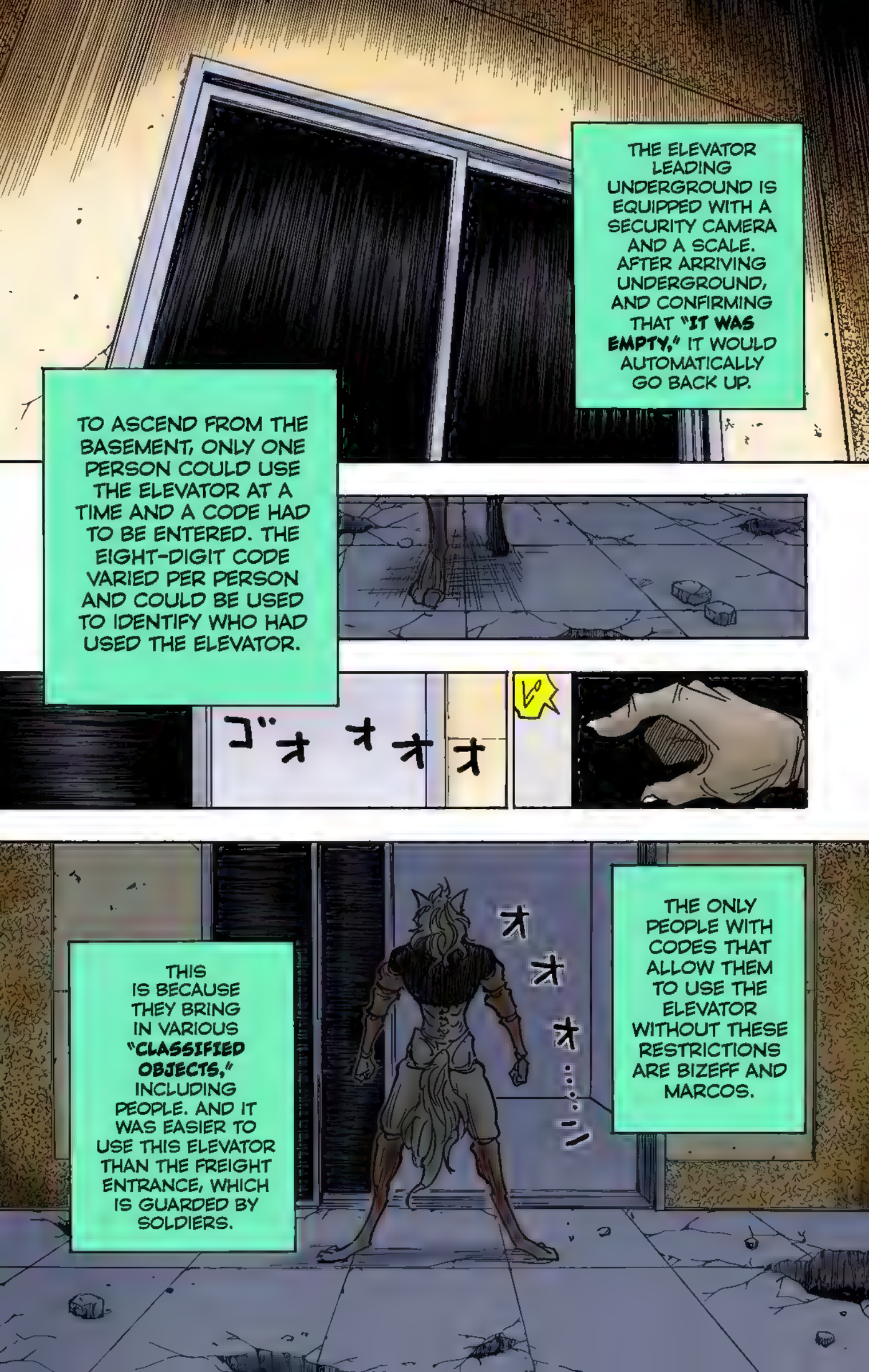

ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, AND THE OWNER OF THE CODE WILL BE PUNISHED. NO EXCUSES. SO EVERYONE TREATS HIS CODE AS HE WOULD THEIR OWN LIFE.
THE COMPUTER KEEPS A RECORD OF EACH ACCESS, AND SECRETARY BIZEF REGULARLY CHECKS UP ON WHEN AND HOW MANY TIMES, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE ACCESS HAS BEEN GRANTED.
MARCOS ONLY TOLD MOREL ABOUT HIS OWN CODE NUMBER THE MOMENT BEFORE HIS GETAWAY PLANE TOOK HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
SATELLITE DRAGONFLIES!


IKALGO KNEW PALM ONLY THROUGH THE DATA GIVEN TO HIM.
BUT HE RESOLVED EARLY ON THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THE PALACE WITHOUT FINDING HER.
SHE'S MY FRIEND!!!
PALM EARNED IKALGO'S RESPECT JUST THROUGH THE FACT THAT "SHE WAS RISKING HER LIFE."
PALM IS A FRIEND OF MY FRIENDS!
I'M GONNA RESCUE HER...!!!
THAT MAKES HER A FRIEND!!


THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE MISSION OR ABOUT DUTY!!
I WANT TO SAVE HER...!! BECAUSE I MADE THE CHOISE TO HELP HER!!!


THE ELEVATOR LEADING UNDERGROUND IS EQUIPPED WITH A SECURITY CAMERA AND A SCALE. AFTER ARRIVING UNDERGROUND, AND CONFIRMING THAT "IT WAS EMPTY," IT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY GO BACK UP.
TO ASCEND FROM THE BASEMENT, ONLY ONE PERSON COULD USE THE ELEVATOR AT A TIME AND A CODE HAD TO BE ENTERED. THE EIGHT-DIGIT CODE VARIED PER PERSON AND COULD BE USED TO IDENTIFY WHO HAD USED THE ELEVATOR.
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THIS IS BECAUSE THEY BRING IN VARIOUS "CLASSIFIED OBJECTS," INCLUDING PEOPLE. AND IT WAS EASIER TO USE THIS ELEVATOR THAN THE FREIGHT ENTRANCE, WHICH IS GUARDED BY SOLDIERS.
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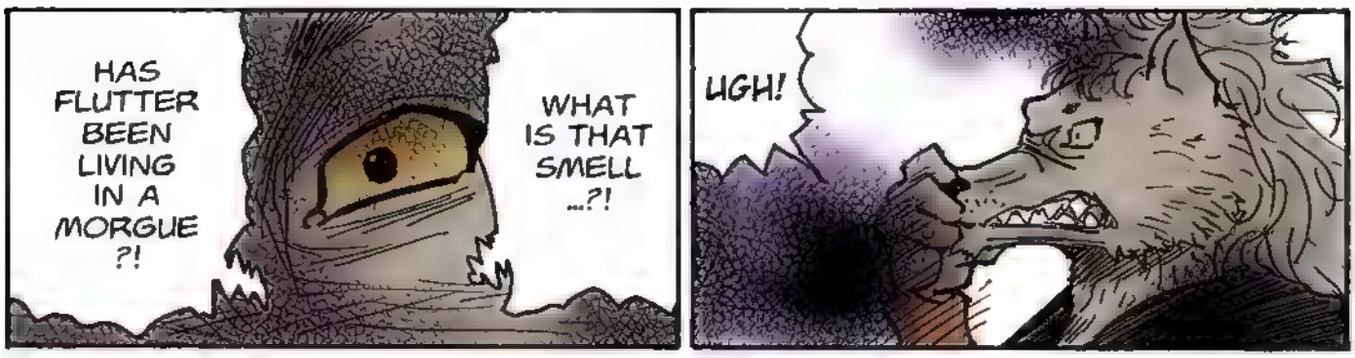
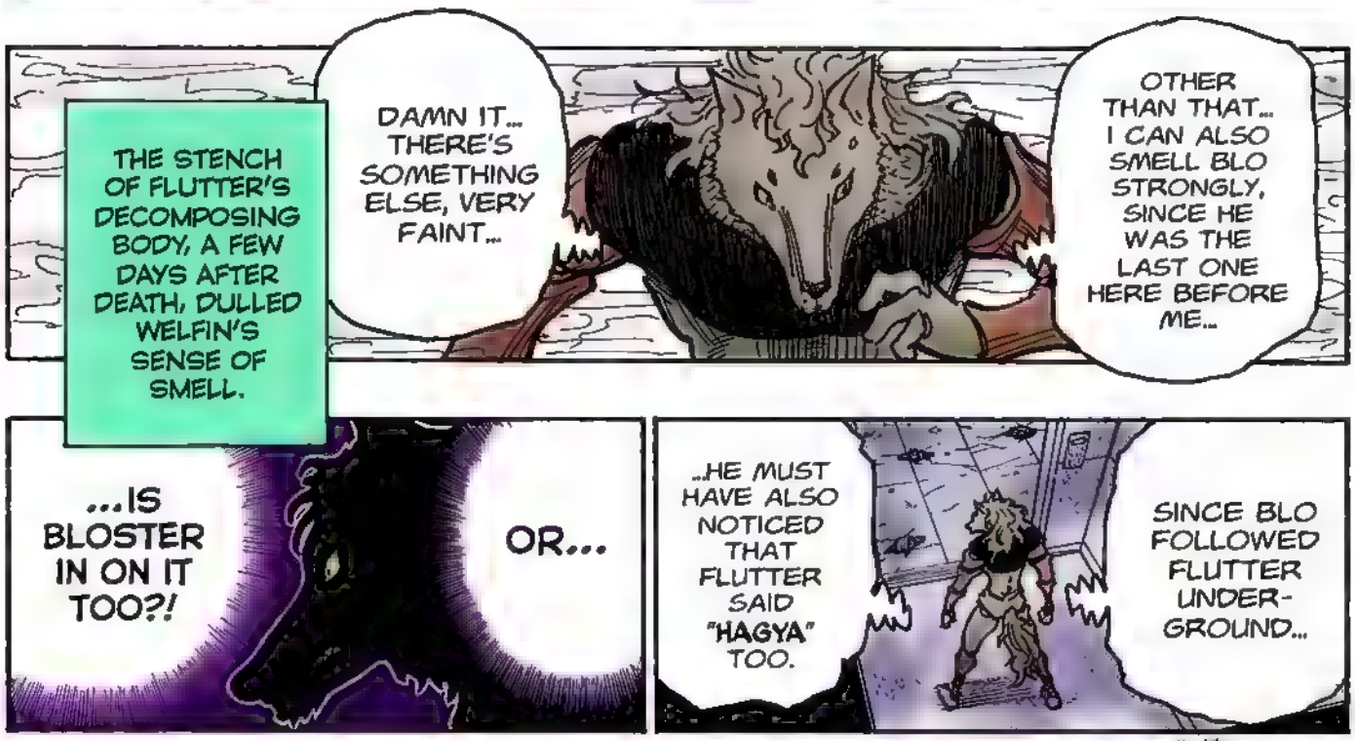
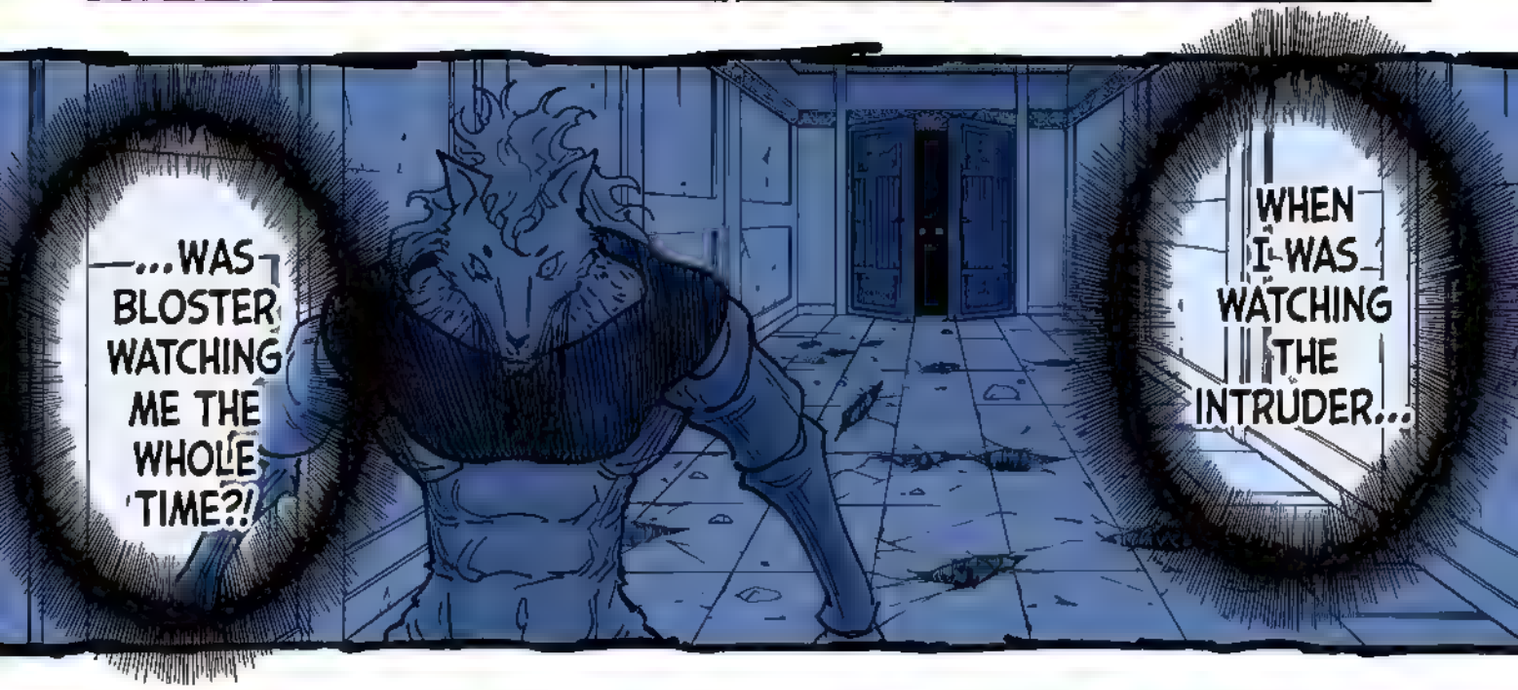
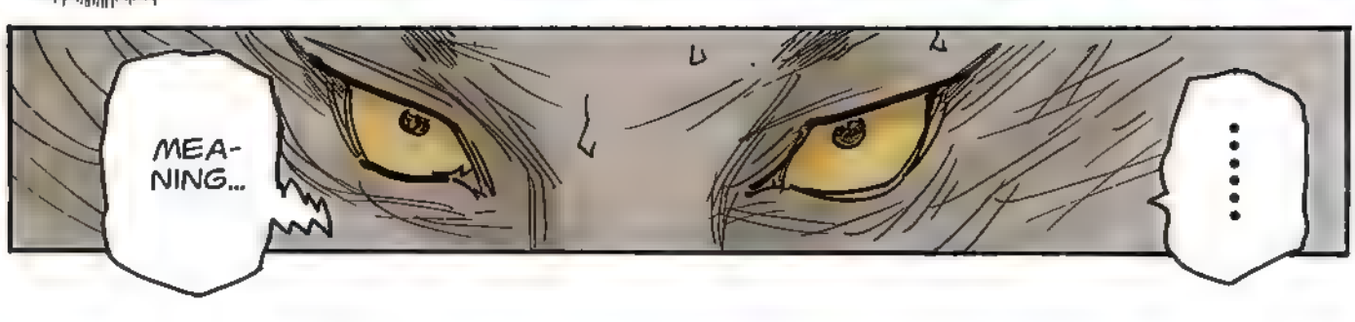
THE ONLY PEOPLE WITH CODES THAT ALLOW THEM TO USE THE ELEVATOR WITHOUT THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE BIZEFF AND MARCOS.

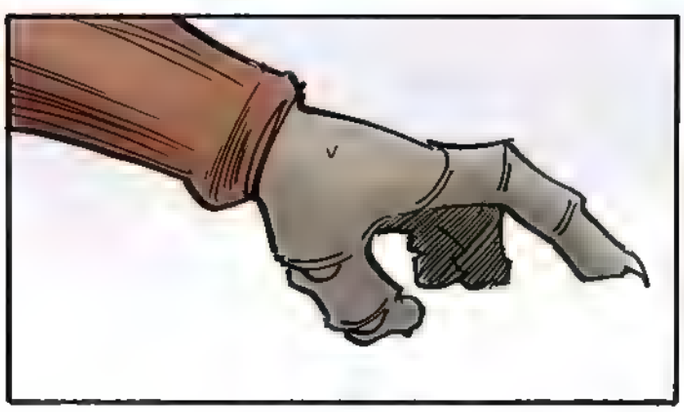

HAS FLUTTER BEEN LIVING IN A MORGUE ?!
WHAT IS THAT SMELL ...?!
UGH!

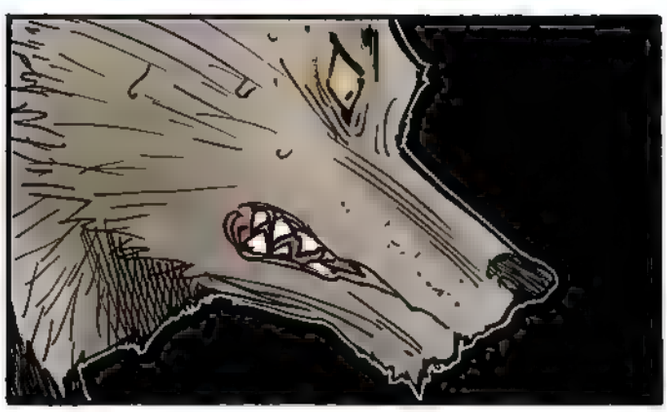

THE STENCH OF FLUTTER'S DECOMPOSING BODY, A FEW DAYS AFTER DEATH, DULLED WELFIN'S SENSE OF SMELL.
DAMN IT... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, VERY FAINT...
OTHER THAN THAT... I CAN ALSO SMELL BLO STRONGLY, SINCE HE WAS THE LAST ONE HERE BEFORE ME...
...IS BLOSTER IN ON IT TOO?!
OR...
..HE MUST HAVE ALSO NOTICED THAT FLUTTER SAID "HAGYA" TOO.
SINCE BLO FOLLOWED FLUTTER UNDER-GROUND...

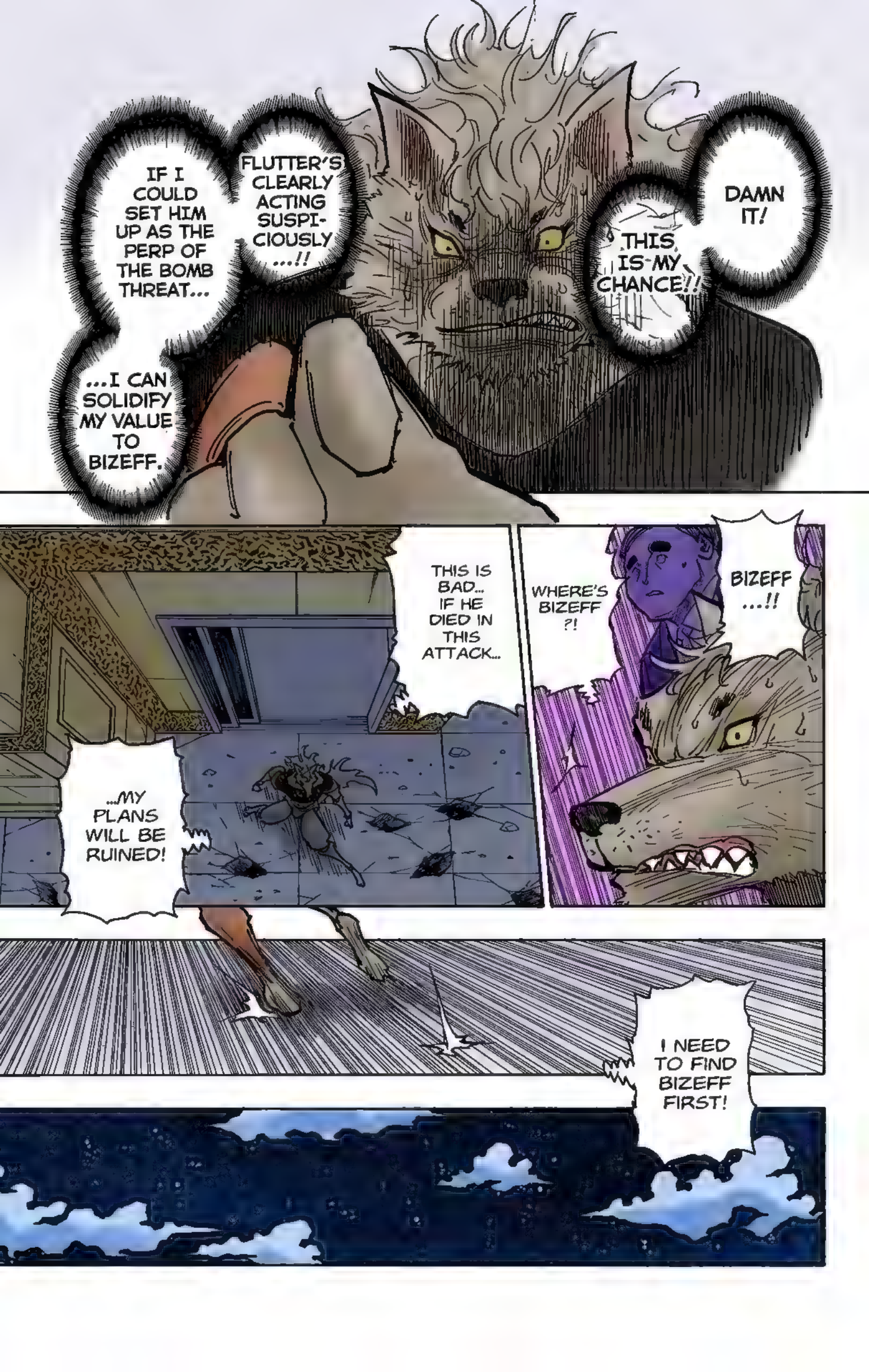

...WAS BLOSTER WATCHING ME THE WHOLE TIME?!
WHEN I WAS WATCHING THE INTRUDER...


MEA-NING...
.....

THEN THE REASON HE WENT DOWN FIRST IS...
IF HE WAS AND IF HE'S WORKING WITH THE INTRUDER, THEN HE MUST HAVE SEEN THAT I NOTICED FLUTTER'S AWKWARDNESS.
...AMBUSH ME DOWNSTAIRS ??!!
IN ORDER TO...

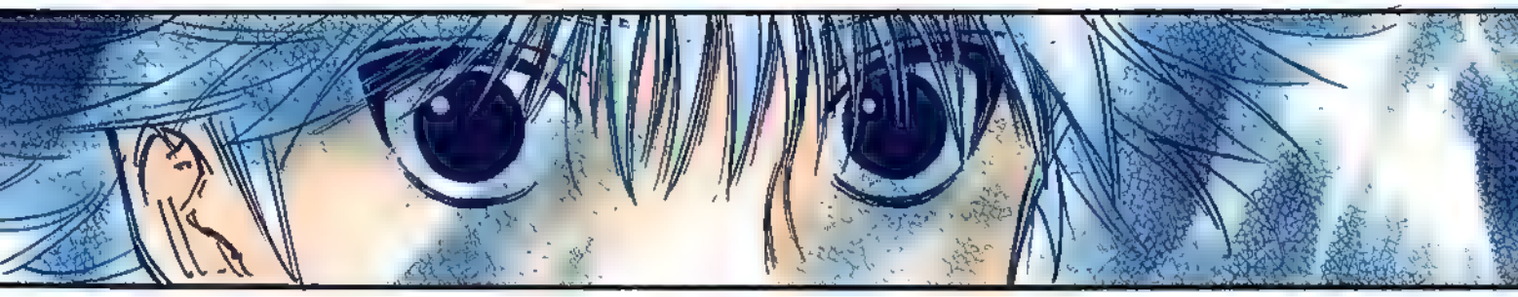





IF I COULD SET HIM UP AS THE PERP OF THE BOMB THREAT...
FLUTTER'S CLEARLY ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY ...!!
...I CAN SOLIDIFY MY VALUE TO BIZEFF.
THIS IS MY CHANCE!!
DAMN IT!
THIS IS BAD... IF HE DIED IN THIS ATTACK...
...MY PLANS WILL BE RUINED!
WHERE'S BIZEFF ?!
BIZEFF ...!!
I NEED TO FIND BIZEFF FIRST!

HEY.

GRANDPA...



INSIDE...?

.....

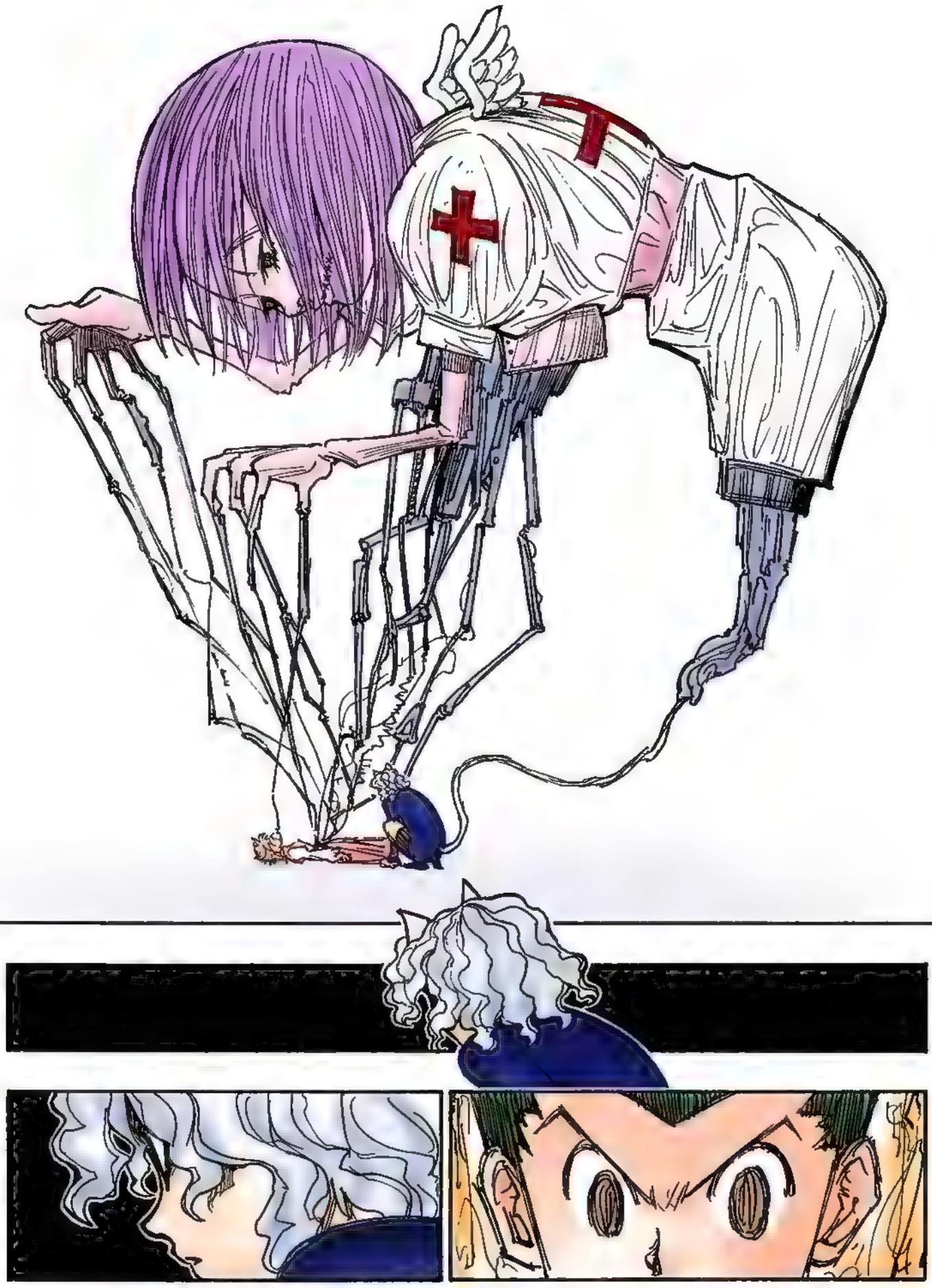
YOU MAKE THE CALL WHEN YOU GET INSIDE.

I KNOW NOTHING BEYOND THE MISSION I WAS GIVEN.

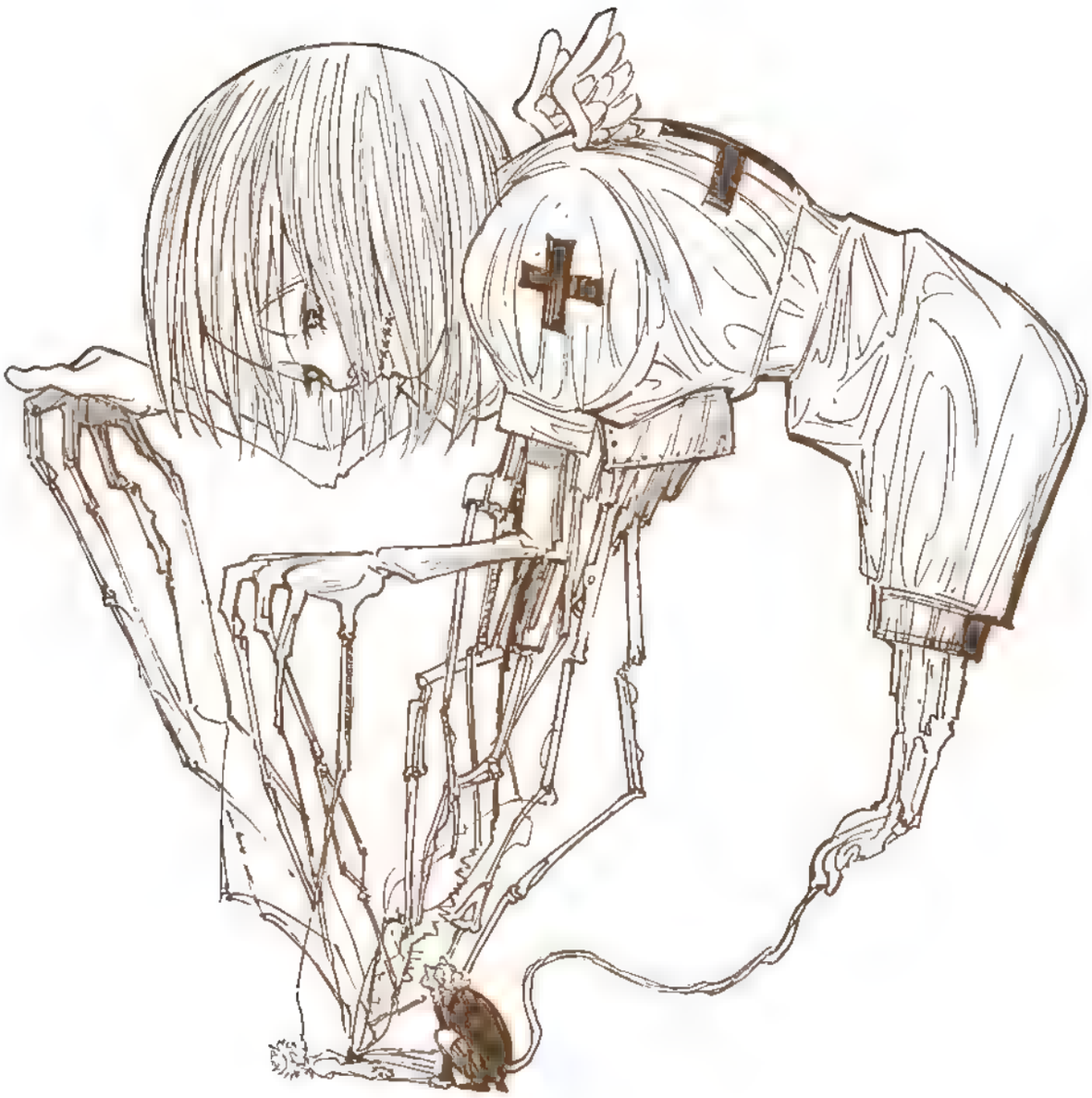
MY JOB HERE IS DONE.

HE'S CHANGED...

AND ZENO DISAPPEARED INTO THE DARKNESS.
HE HELD BACK EVERYTHING ELSE HE WANTED TO SAY.



I CAME HERE...
I'M GON FREECSS !!!
...TO GET YOU TO RESTORE KITE!!!!
...RE-MEMBER ME...?
DO YOU...



PITOU...

IN HIS HEAD...

...DID NOT HEAR ANY OF GON'S WORDS.

THE ONLY THING ON PITOU'S MIND WAS FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS CURRENT CRISIS AND CARRYING OUT THE KING'S ORDERS.

...EVERY CELL IN PITOU'S BODY WAS FOCUSED ON THAT TASK.

No.274 ◆ SOLUTION

THAT'S ODD...
KILLUA WAS OBSERVING FROM A STEP BEHIND AND NOTICED THE ABNORMALITY.
...WITH THE ENEMY RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM...?
WHY ISN'T HE PREPARING FOR BATTLE...
...WITHOUT ANY AURA...?
DOES HE THINK HE CAN WIN...
GON HAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF AURA THAN BEFORE!!
NO!! THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE.
HE MIGHT AS WELL BE COMPLETELY NAKED.
I CAN'T SENSE ANY AURA AROUND HIM AT ALL.
HE'S COMPLETELY DEFEN-SELESS!!

...CAN STAND A CHANCE WITHOUT USING NEN...!!

EVEN PITOU...

...IS IT THE DISTANCE?

THEN...

...THERE'LL BE ENOUGH TIME TO ACTIVATE HIS NEN IF WE DO ATTACK...?!!

DOES HE BELIEVE THAT AT THIS DISTANCE...

HE LOOKS LIKE...

THAT'S IT...

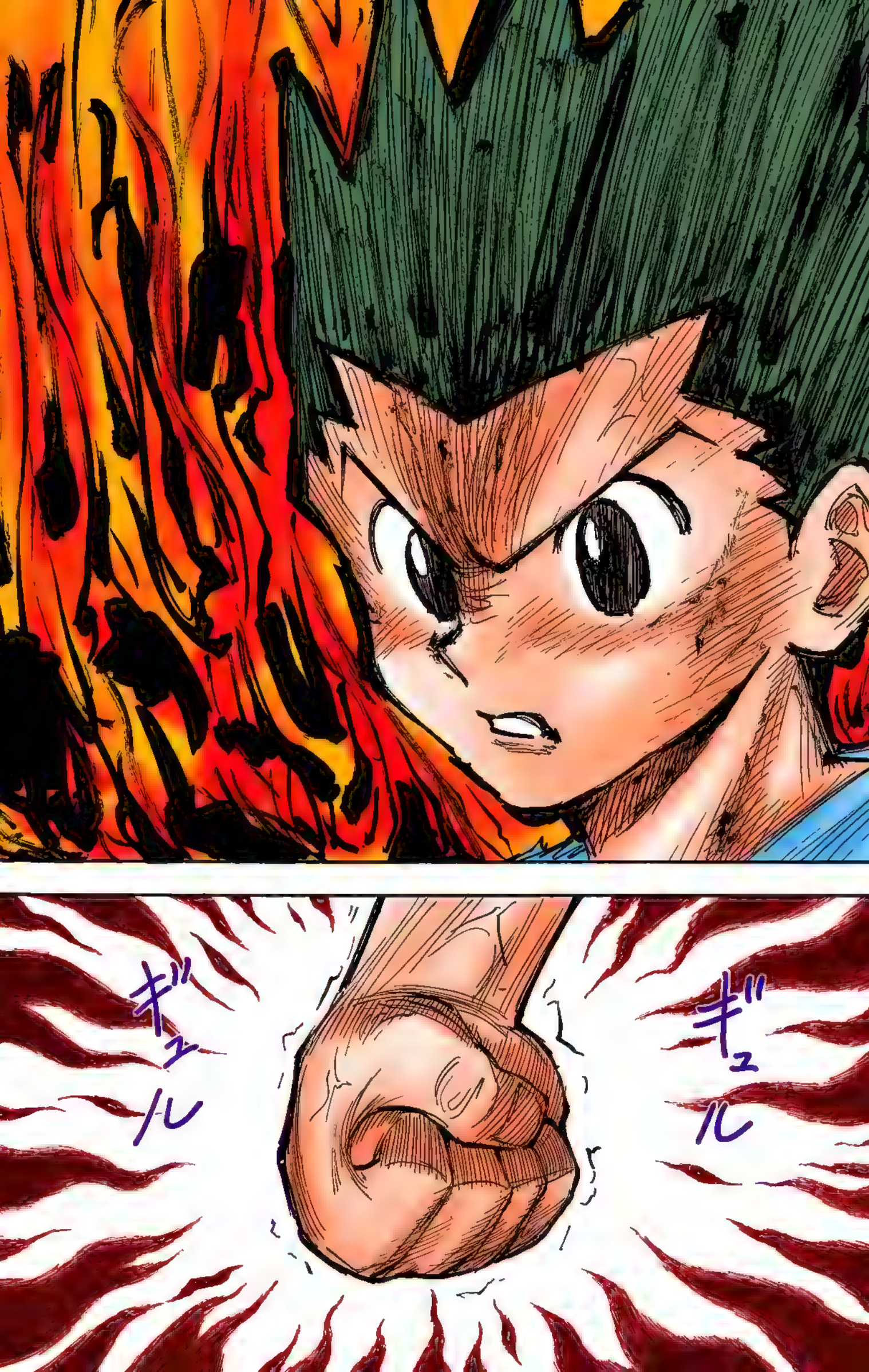
BUT... WHY DOESN'T IT LOOK THAT WAY?!

THAT IS POSSIBLE.

A MOTHER !!! .....

USING HER BODY TO PROTECT THE WEAK....!!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS...!! NO WAY...!! HE ISN'T SOMEONE WHO'S CAPABLE OF THAT!!

WHY WAS HE SO CRYPTIC ...?
YOU MAKE THE CALL WHEN YOU GET INSIDE.
WHY DID GRANDPA SAY!!!
BUT ...
WHILE KILLUA DESPERATELY STRUGGLED AGAINST HIS INTUITION...
...TO THE GIRL LYING BEFORE THEM.
GON'S EYES REFLECTED ...
...WAS KITE BEING DISMANTLED.
WHAT HE REALLY SAW...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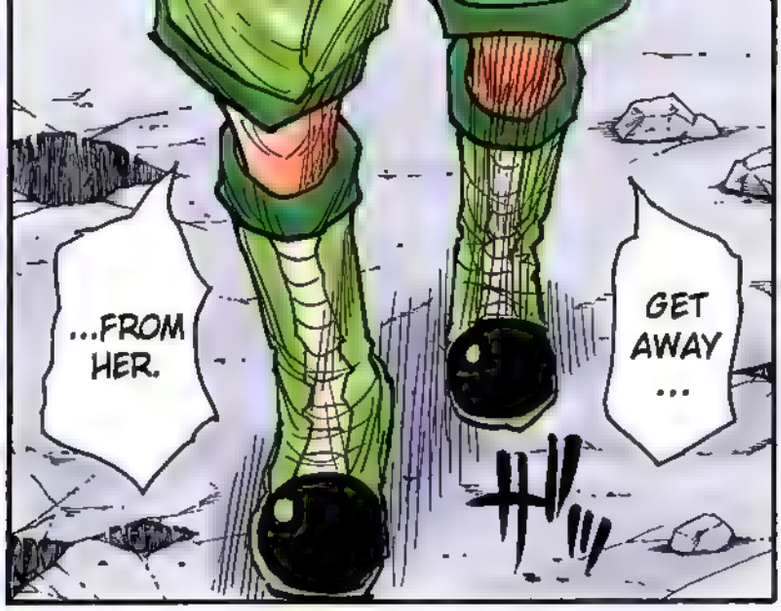
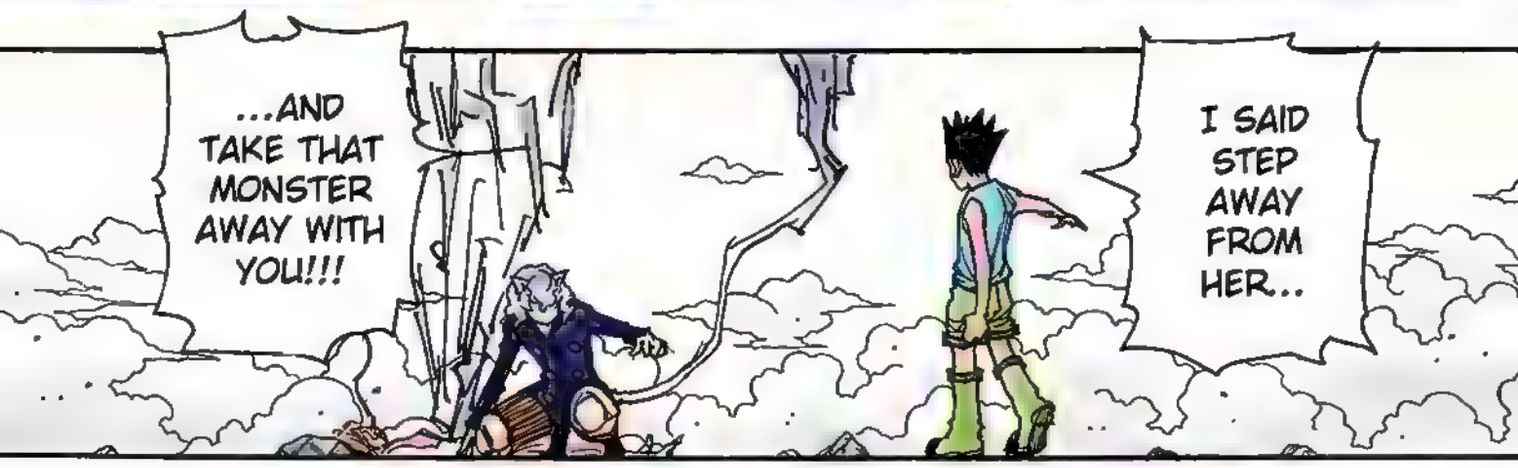
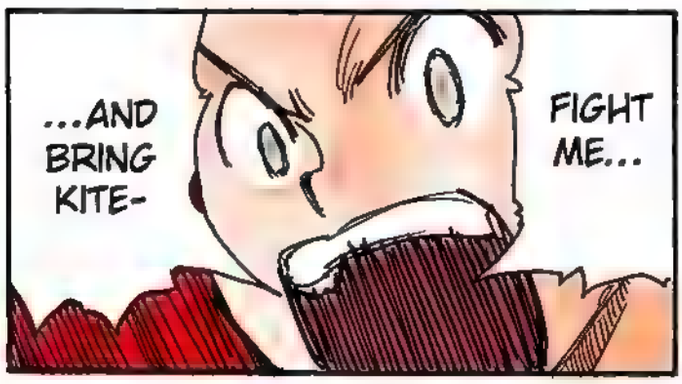
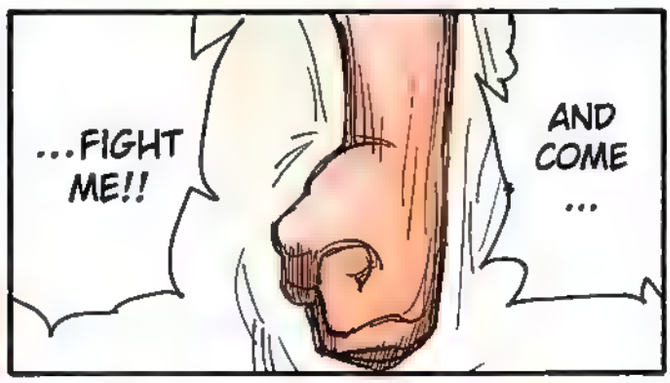
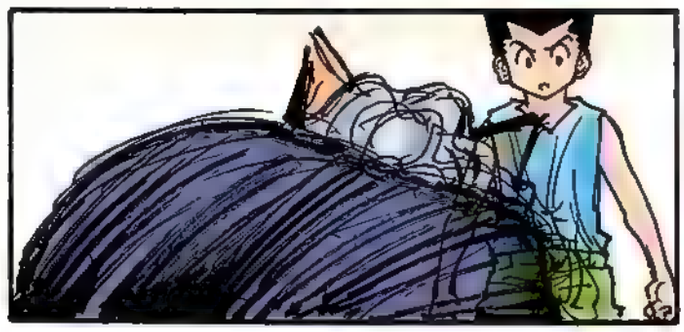
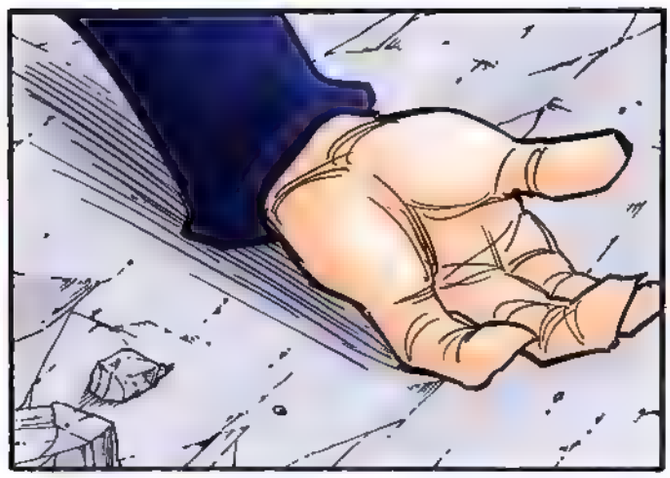

...FROM HER.
GET AWAY ...


...AND TAKE THAT MONSTER AWAY WITH YOU!!!
I SAID STEP AWAY FROM HER...


...AND BRING KITE-
FIGHT ME...


...FIGHT ME!!
AND COME ...





KILLUA KNEW THIS.
WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...
PLEASE.
TURNING HIS PALMS UPWARD...
...WAS ALL PITOU COULD DO TO SHOW HE DID NOT MEAN ANY HARM.

WHY THE HELL WOULD I WAIT?!!

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!!

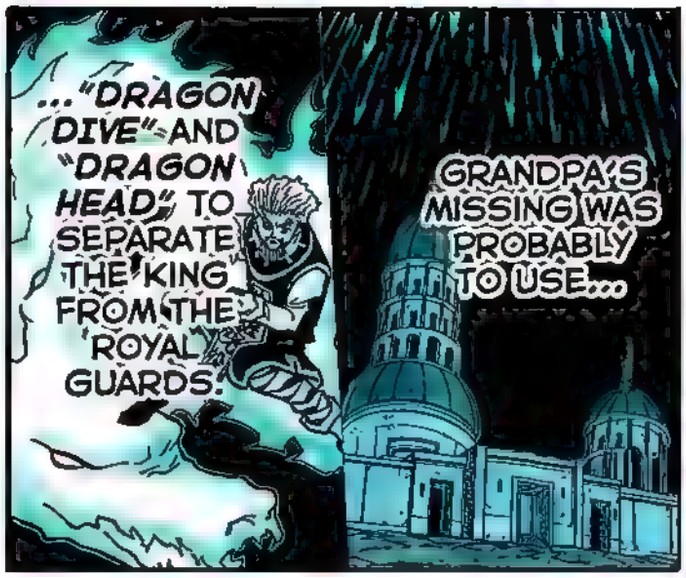
STAND UP!!!!

WE'RE GOING OUTSIDE !!!

PITOU'S UNEXPECTED SUBMISSION LEFT GON WITHOUT A TARGET FOR HIS RAGE.

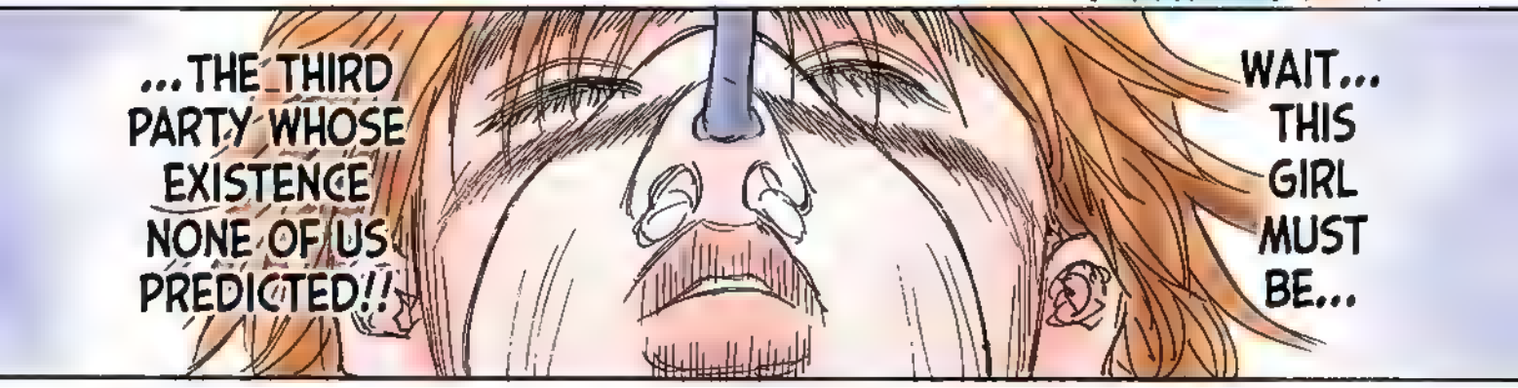
MEAN-WHILE ...

KILLUA WAS STARTING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON. AND THAT WAS THAT...

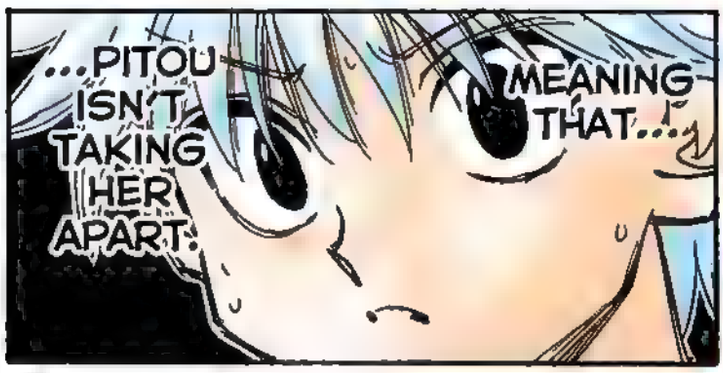

...“DRAGON DIVE” AND “DRAGON HEAD” TO SEPARATE THE KING FROM THE ROYAL GUARDS.
GRANDPA'S MISSING WAS PROBABLY TO USE...

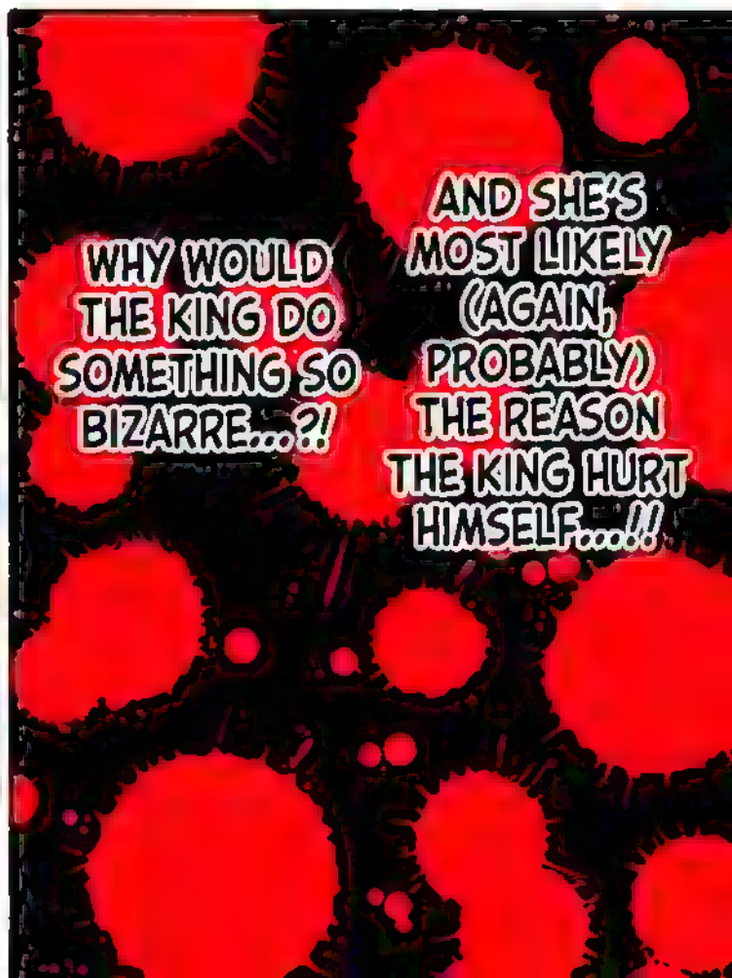
...SOMETHING UNEXPECTED WOULD HAPPEN!!
HE MEANT ...
I KNOW NOTHING BEYOND THE MISSION I WAS GIVEN.
GRANDPA KNEW NOTHING WHEN HE BROUGHT THE DRAGON DOWN...!!

...THAT SHE WAS HERE, TOO.
BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW...

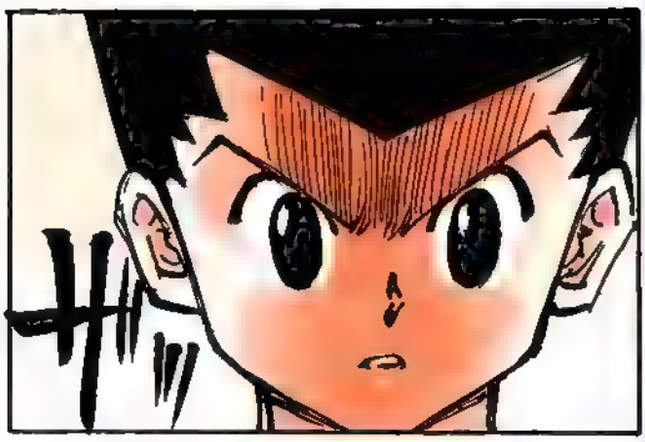

...THE THIRD PARTY WHOSE EXISTENCE NONE OF US PREDICTED!!
WAIT... THIS GIRL MUST BE...

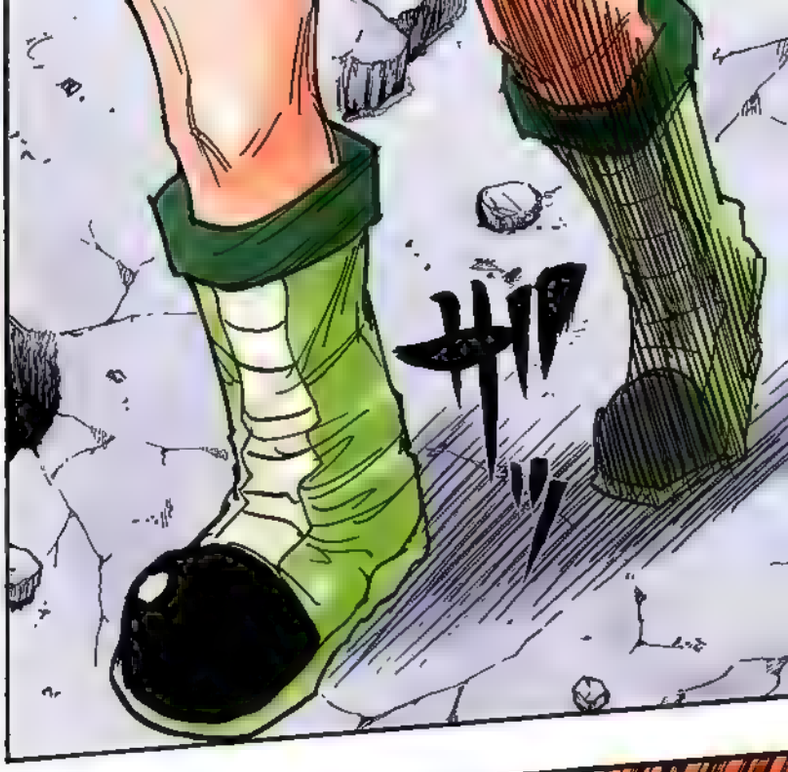
...SOMEONE “SPECIAL.”
IT'S BECAUSE TO THE KING, SHE'S...

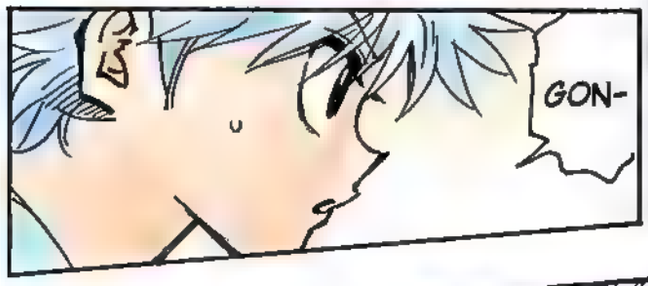

...PITOU ISN'T TAKING HER APART.
MEANING THAT...


WHY WOULD THE KING DO SOMETHING SO BIZARRE...?!
AND SHE'S MOST LIKELY (AGAIN, PROBABLY) THE REASON THE KING HURT HIMSELF...!!

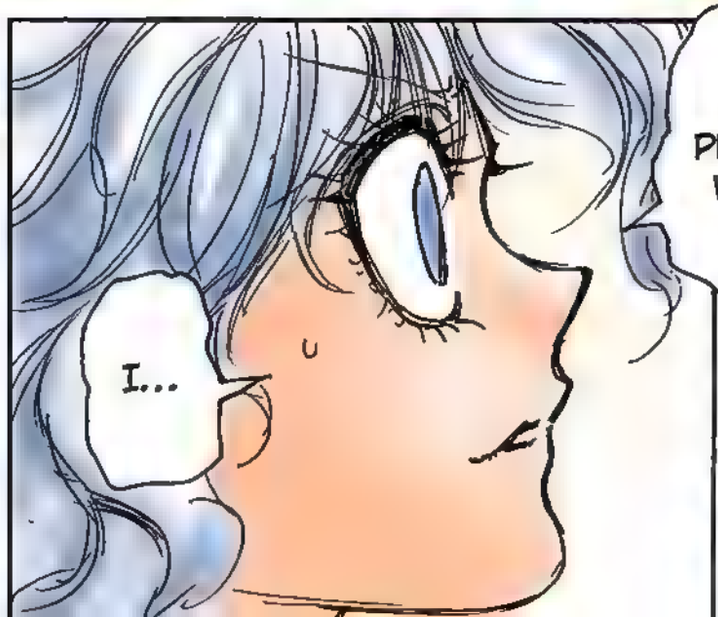
...ON THE KING'S ORDERS !!! .....
PITOU IS HEALING HER...
PITOU'S HEALING ABILITY DOESN'T JUST PRECLUDE USING "EN."
ALL AURA MUST BE FOCUSED ON THE HEALING ABILITY WHEN USING IT!!
HOWEVER, KILLUA KNEW THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD ONLY HAVE...
...A NEGATIVE EFFECT UPON GON.
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!






GON-

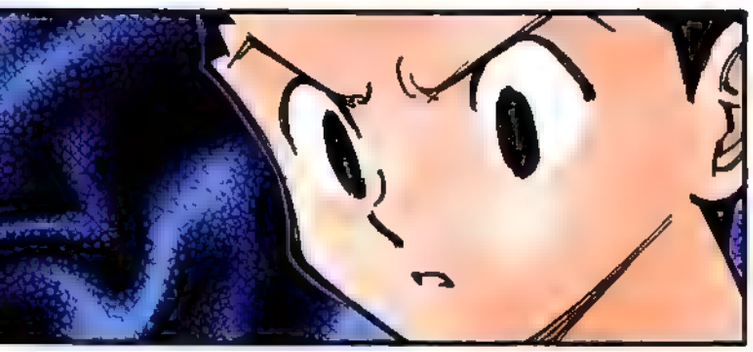
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!!
I'LL DO ANY-THING !!

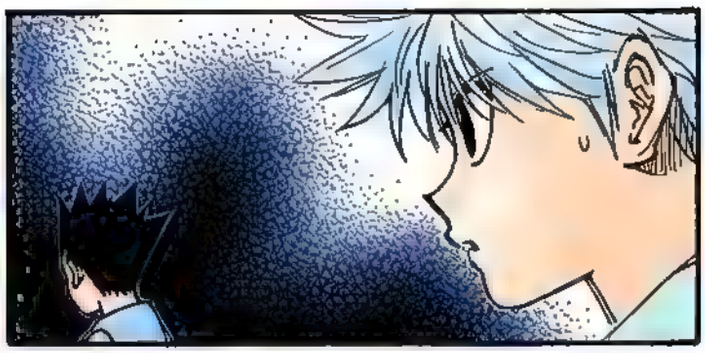

I...

SO PLEASE WAIT.

I HAVE TO SAVE HER...

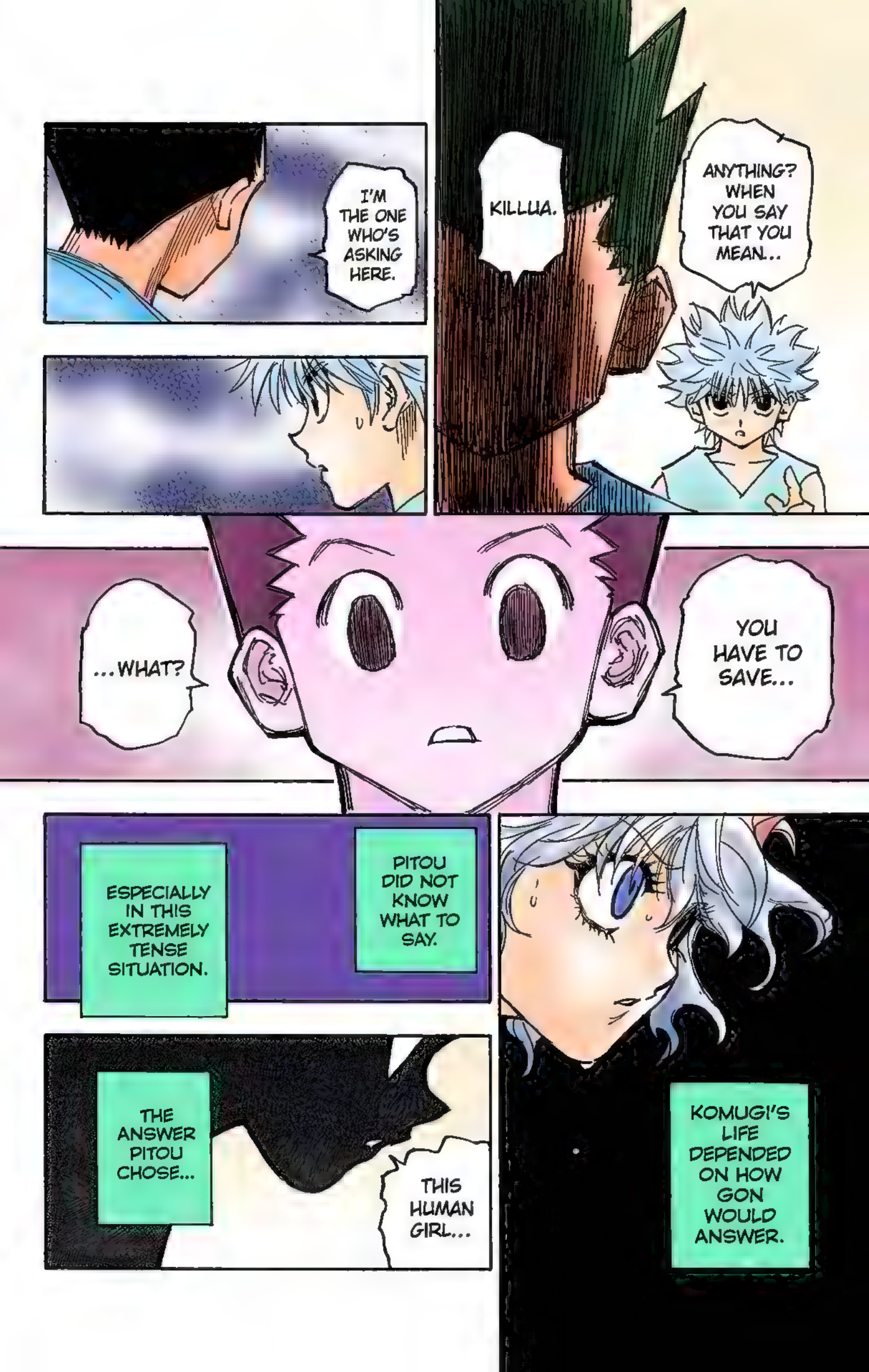
...I HAVE TO AT ANY COST!!





SAVE...? WHAT...?

SAVE...?


I'M THE ONE WHO'S ASKING HERE.
KILLUA.
ANYTHING? WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU MEAN...
...WHAT?
YOU HAVE TO SAVE...
ESPECIALLY IN THIS EXTREMELY TENSE SITUATION.
PITOU DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
THE ANSWER PITOU CHOSE...
THIS HUMAN GIRL...
KOMUGI'S LIFE DEPENDED ON HOW GON WOULD ANSWER.

...TO A PERSON I CARE ABOUT DEEPLY.

...SHE IS SOMEONE PRECIOUS...

...WAS TO TELL THE TRUTH.

IF SHE CEASED TO EXIST, THE KING...

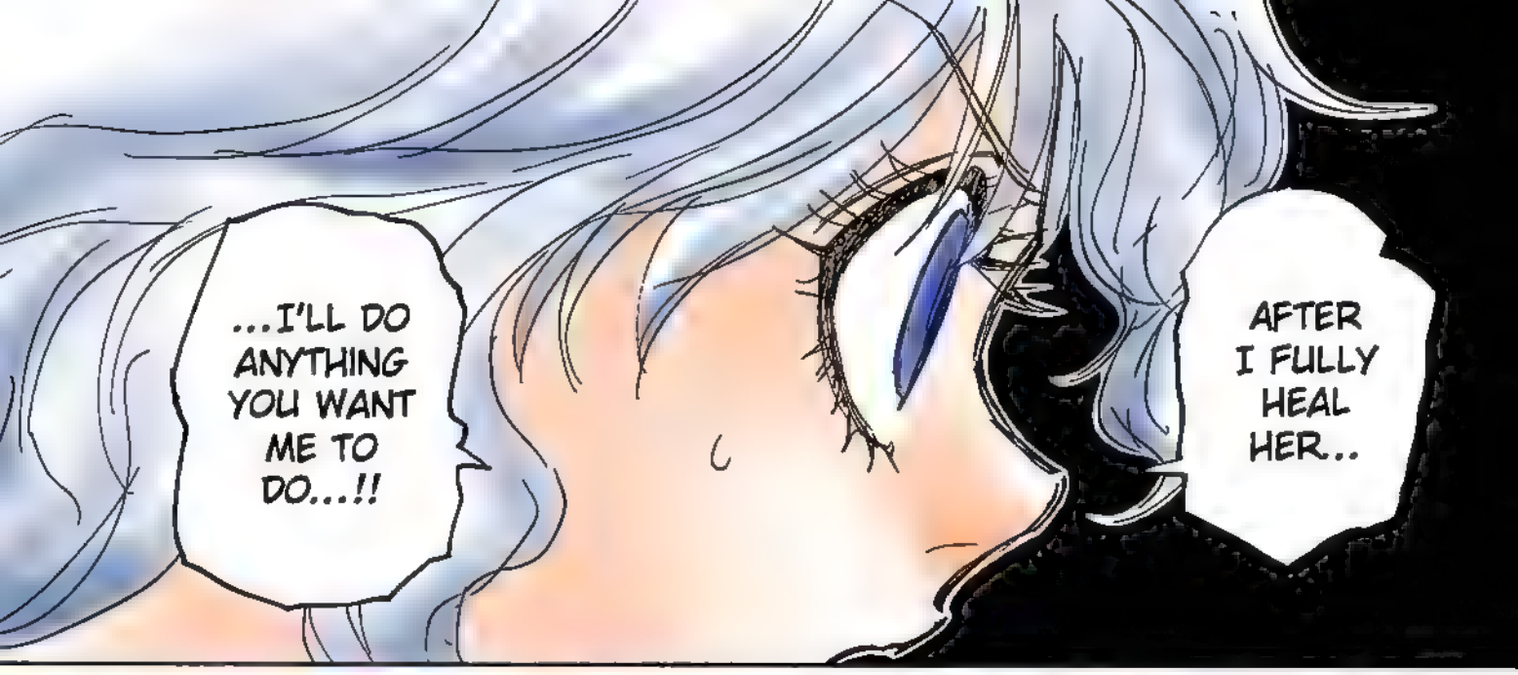
THE KING BECAME WHO HE IS BECAUSE OF HER.

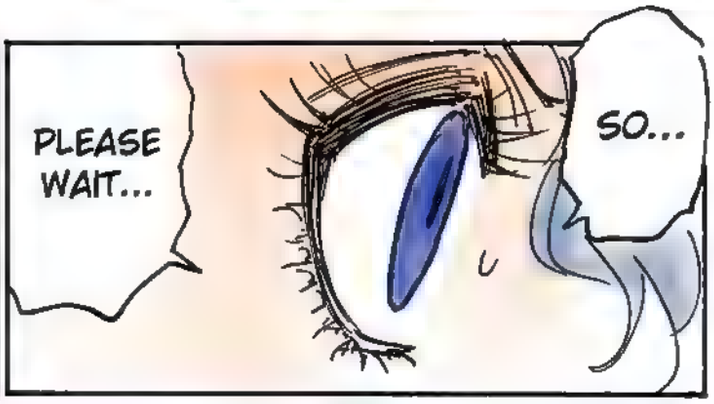
...IS FOR HER TO LIVE.

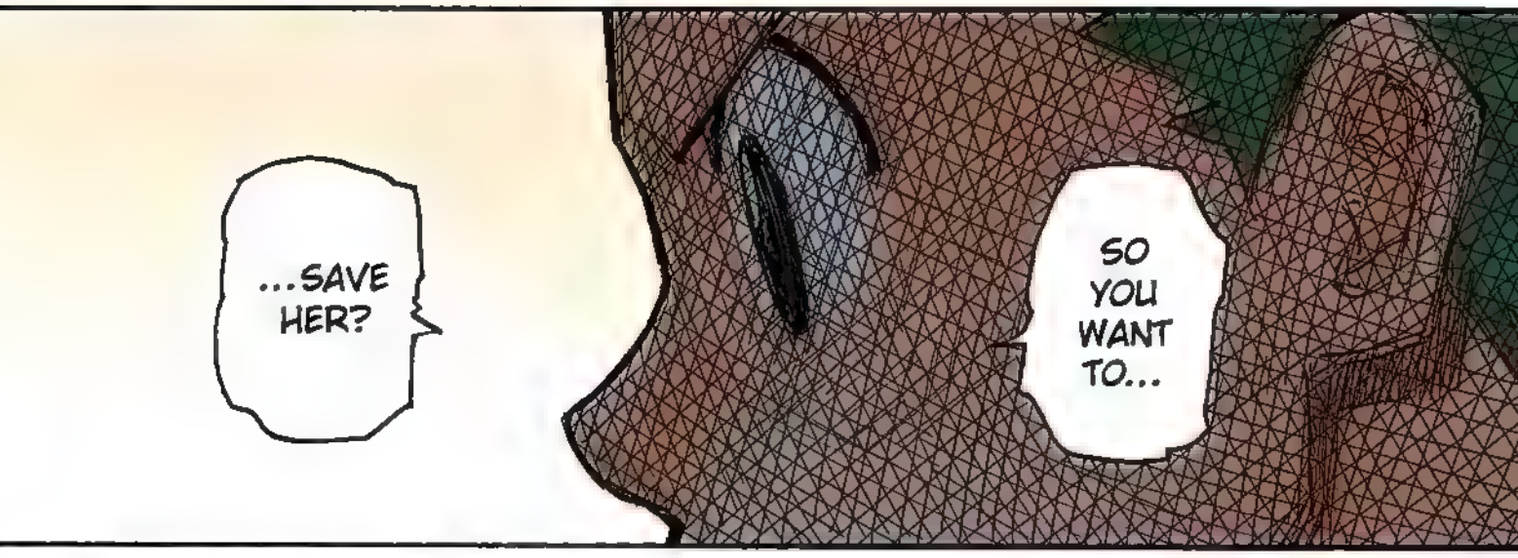
SO, ALL I WANT...

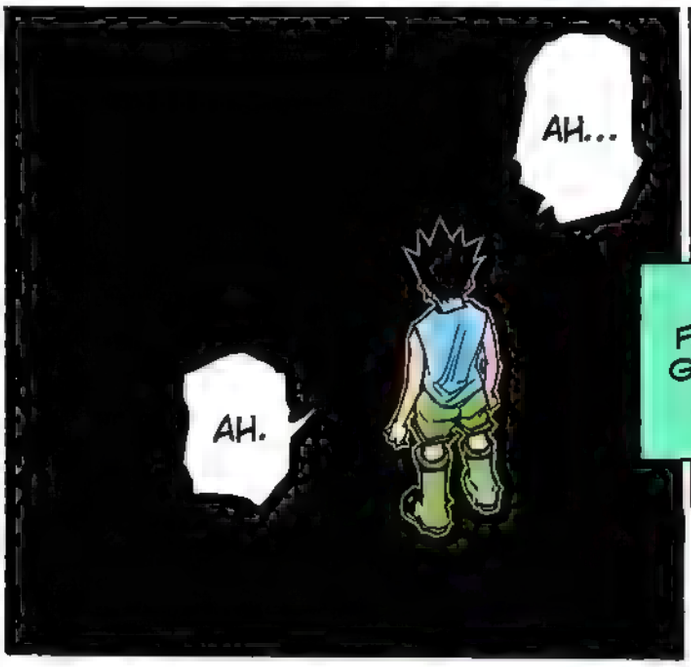
SHE MEANS THAT MUCH...

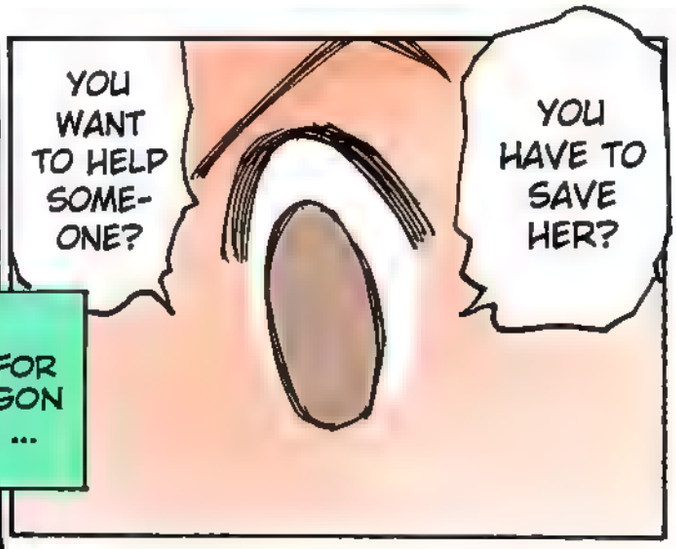
...HE WON'T BE HIMSELF ANYMORE.

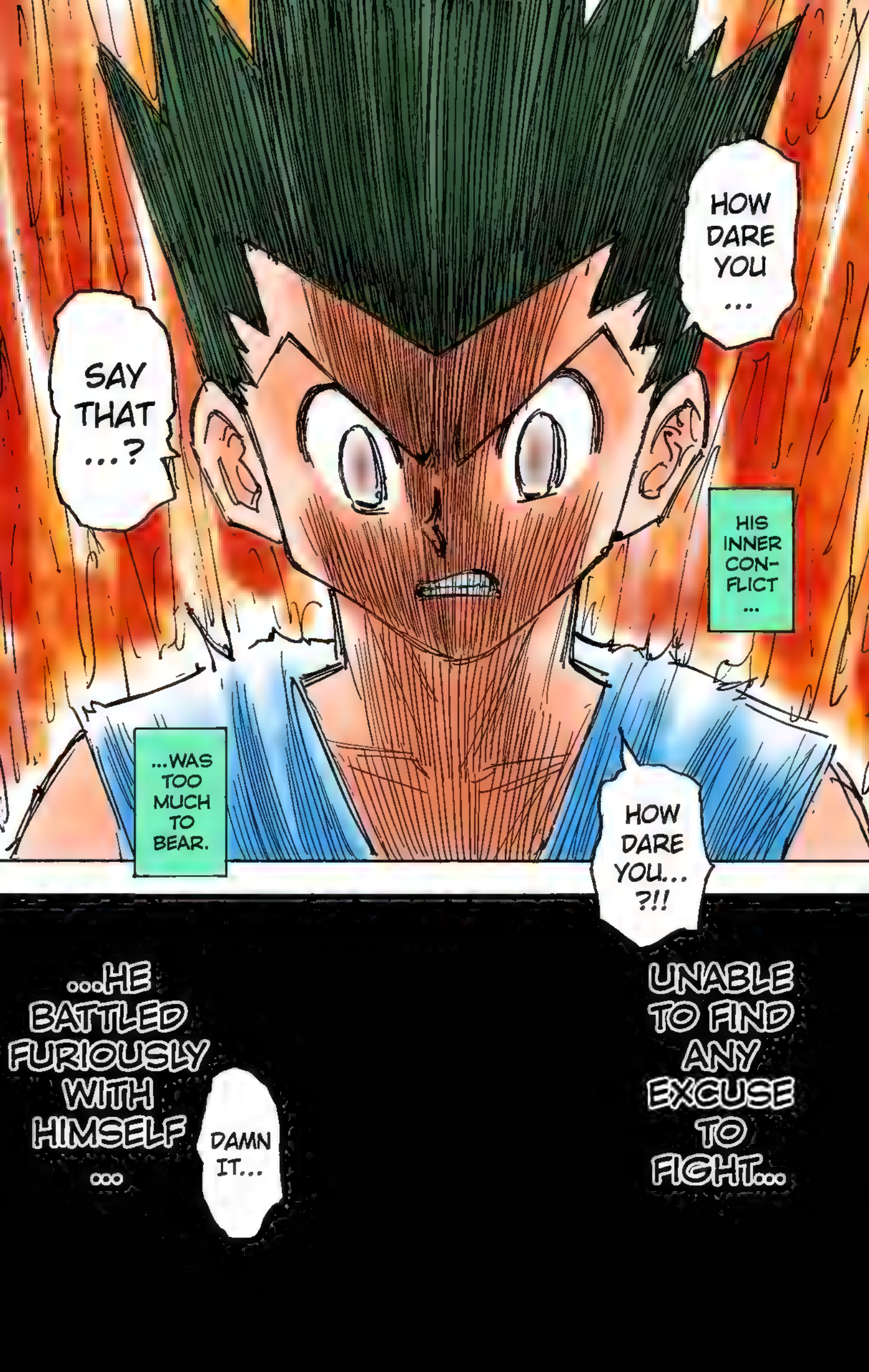

...I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO DO...!!
AFTER I FULLY HEAL HER...

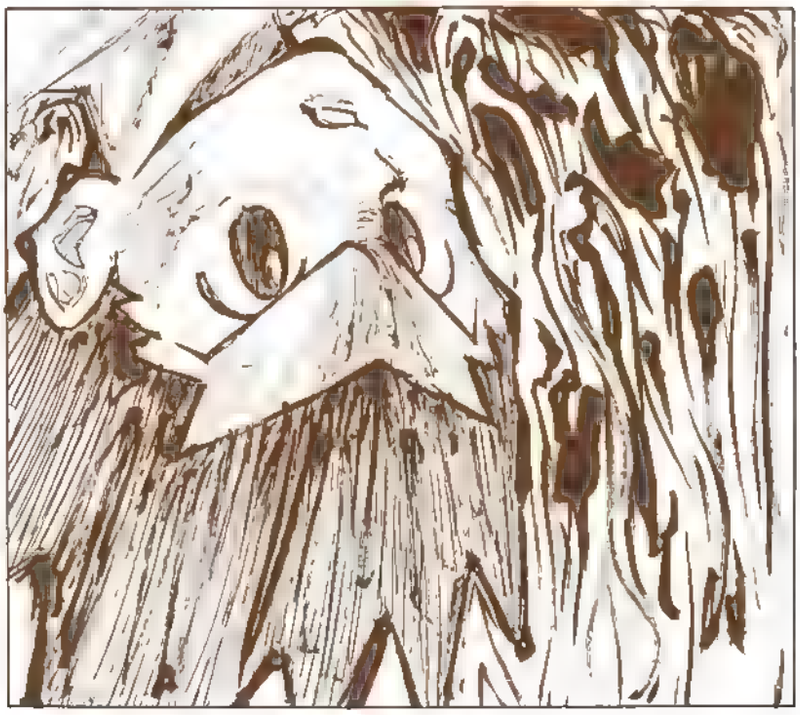

PLEASE WAIT...
SO...


...SAVE HER?
SO YOU WANT TO...

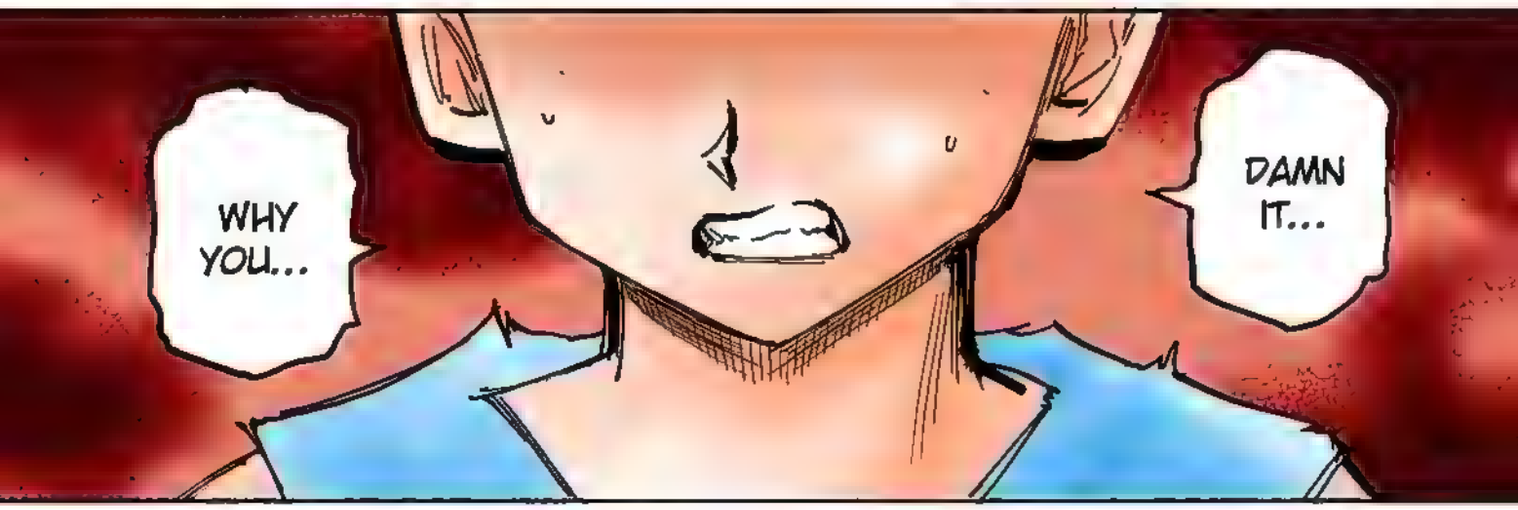

AH...
AH.

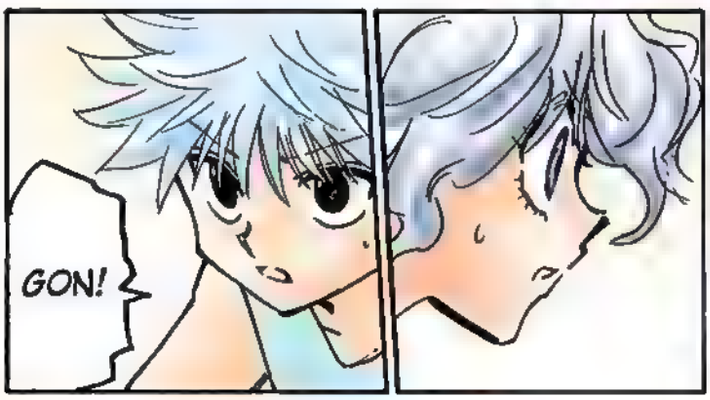

YOU WANT TO HELP SOME-ONE?
YOU HAVE TO SAVE HER?
FOR GON ...

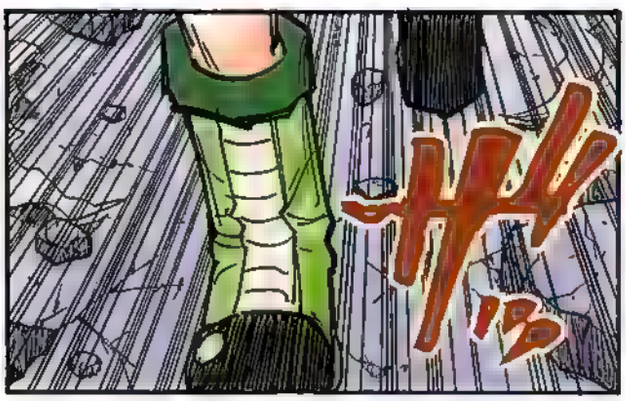

HOW DARE YOU ...
SAY THAT ...?
HIS INNER CON-FLICT ...
...WAS TOO MUCH TO BEAR.
HOW DARE YOU...?!!
...HE BATTLED FURIOUSLY WITH HIMSELF ...
DAMN IT...
UNABLE TO FIND ANY EXCUSE TO FIGHT...

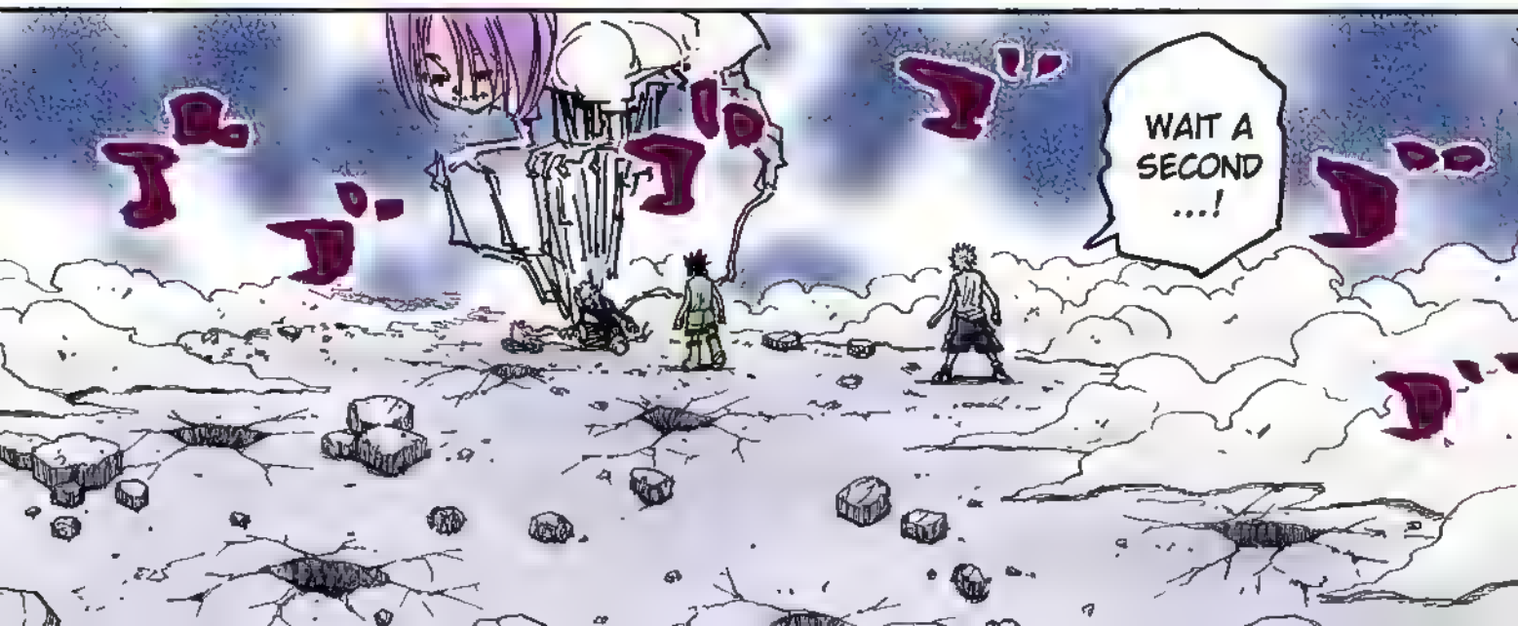


No.275 ◆ PROMISE

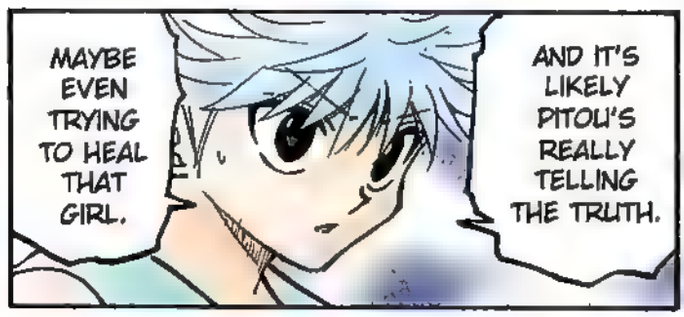








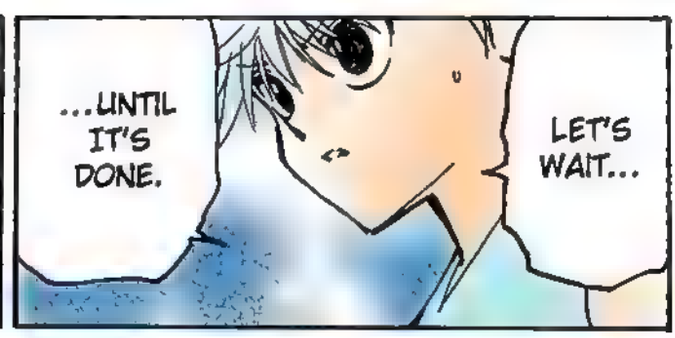
.....
AND?

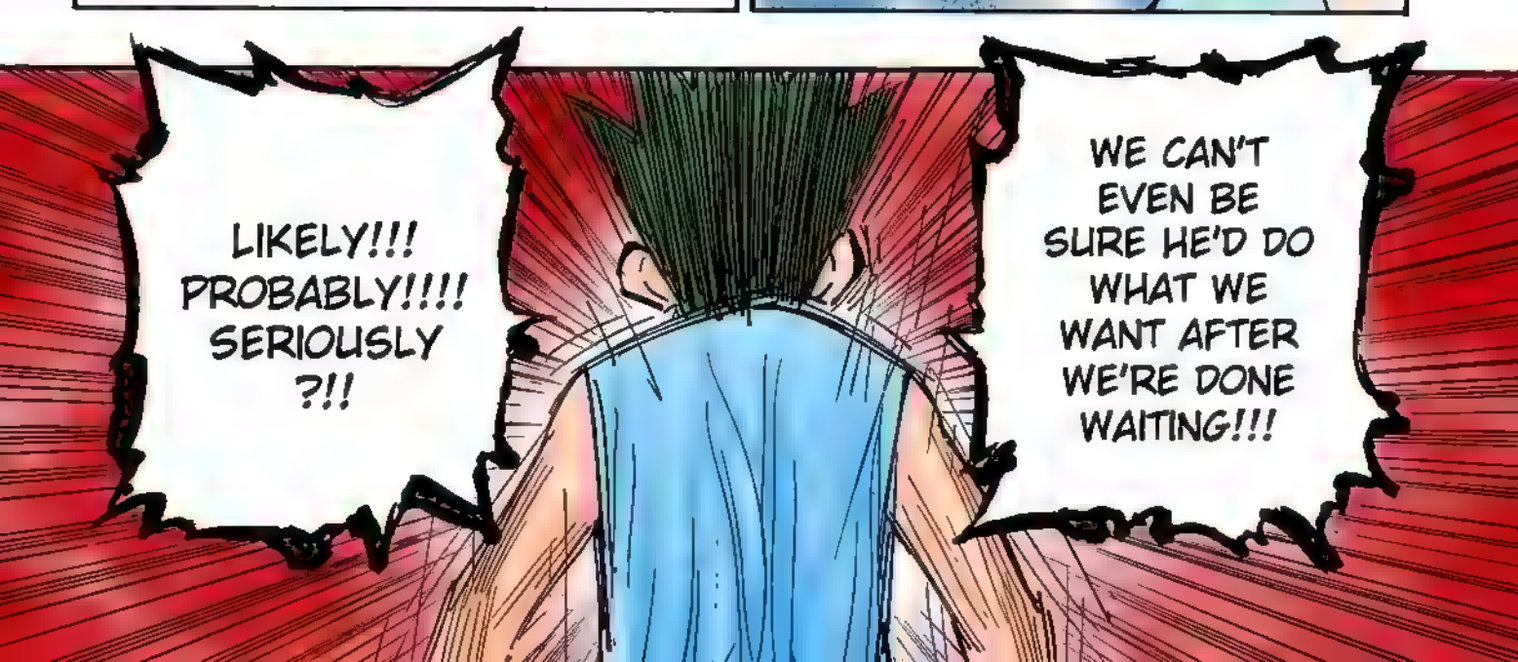

MAYBE EVEN TRYING TO HEAL THAT GIRL.
AND IT'S LIKELY PITOU'S REALLY TELLING THE TRUTH.

...PROBABLY BECAUSE OF US.
THAT GIRL OVER THERE GOT HURT...
PROBABLY FROM GRANDPA'S "DRAGON DIVE."

SO?
.....

YOU WANT ME TO WAIT BECAUSE OF A LIKELY OR A PROBABLY ?!
LIKELY? PROBABLY ?


...UNTIL IT'S DONE.
LET'S WAIT...


LIKELY!!! PROBABLY!!!! SERIOUSLY ?!!
WE CAN'T EVEN BE SURE HE'D DO WHAT WE WANT AFTER WE'RE DONE WAITING!!!

QUIT MESSING AROUND !!!
THE HELL WITH THAT!
YOU...
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU?!!
YOU WANT ME TO TRUST...
...WHAT THIS THING TELLS ME?!!
WE CAN'T TRUST IT!!!

ベロ
ボキ
...I'LL BREAK MY RIGHT ARM AS WELL.
IF YOU SO DESIRE...
...I OFFER BOTH MY LEGS ...!!!
IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH ...
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HINDER THE HEALING PROCESS ...!
YOU CAN... MANGLE MY BODY ALL YOU WANT.
...AND YOU STILL THINK I WON'T KEEP MY PROMISE...
IF AFTER I DO HEAL HER...

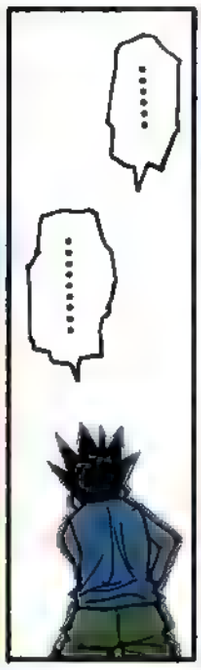
I BEG YOU, PLEASE LET ME DO THIS...
PLEASE, JUST LET ME SAVE HER...!!

IT'S NOT FAIR!!!
IT'S NOT FAIR, DAMN IT!!!
AFTER ALL YOU DID TO KITE?!!!
WHY ARE YOU JUST HELPING HER?!!!
GON !!
WHY, DAMN IT!!

WHY YYYY !!!
UH!
UH!
UNH!

THE HELL WITH THIS...
GON !!
SHOW ME...
...KITE WILL NEVER BE WHOLE AGAIN.
IF YOU KILL HIM NOW...

KILLUA ...
YOU HAVE IT EASY ...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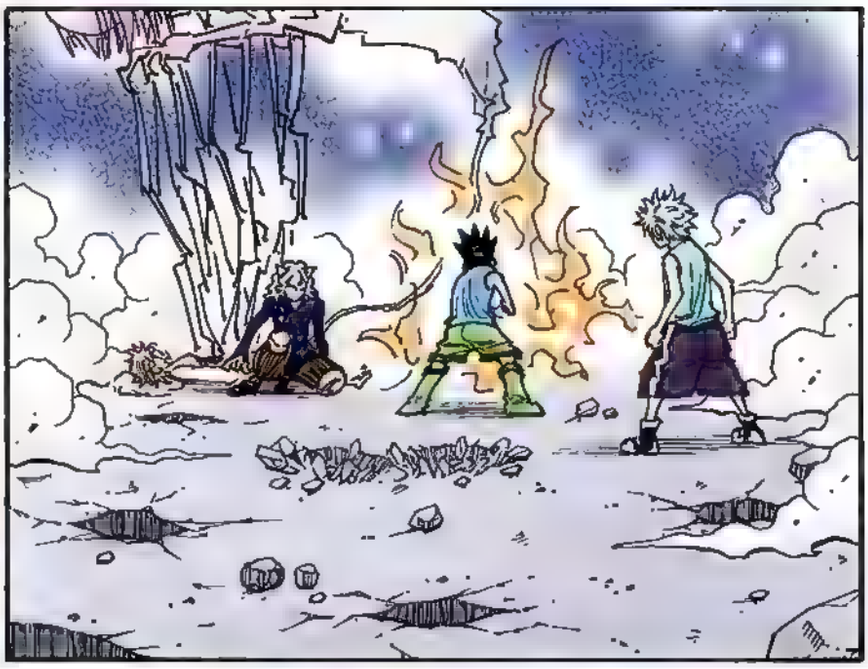
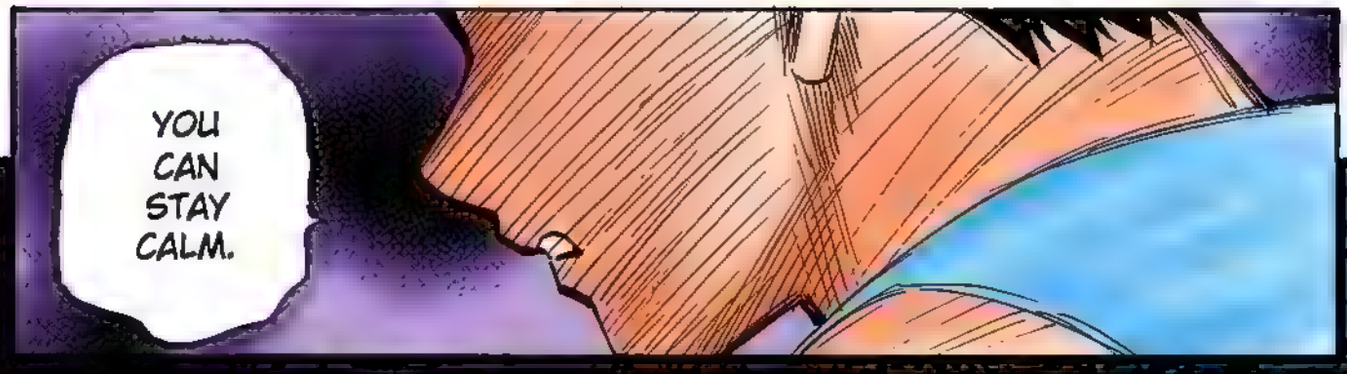
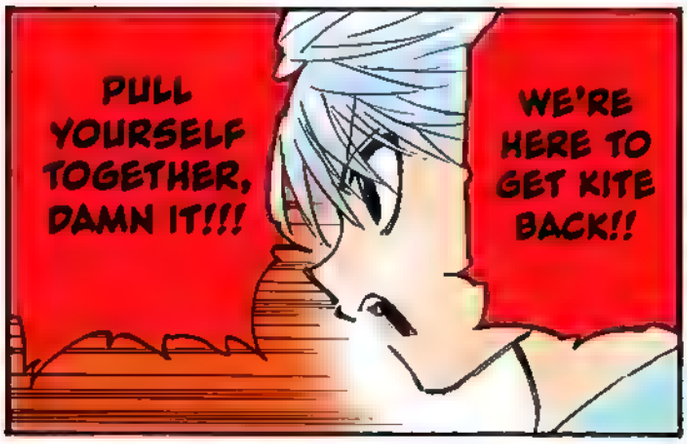



YOU CAN STAY CALM.

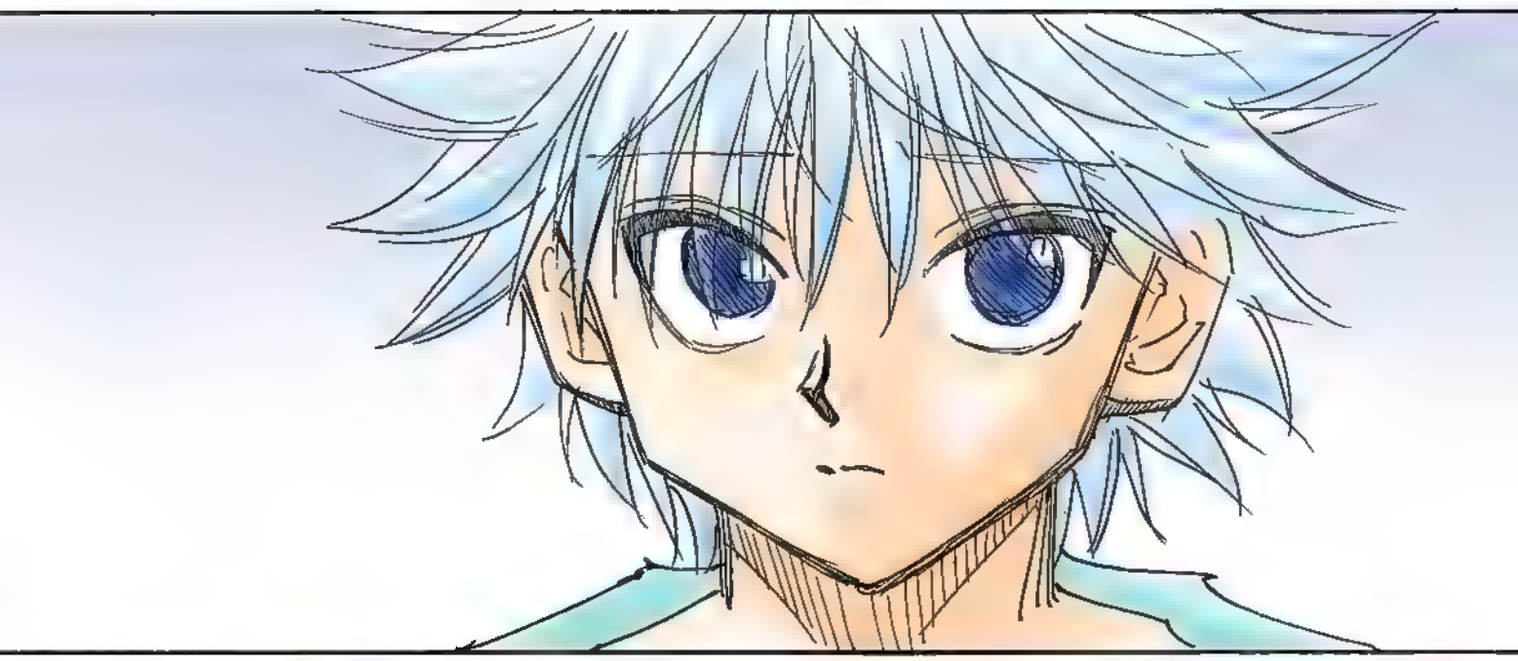
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

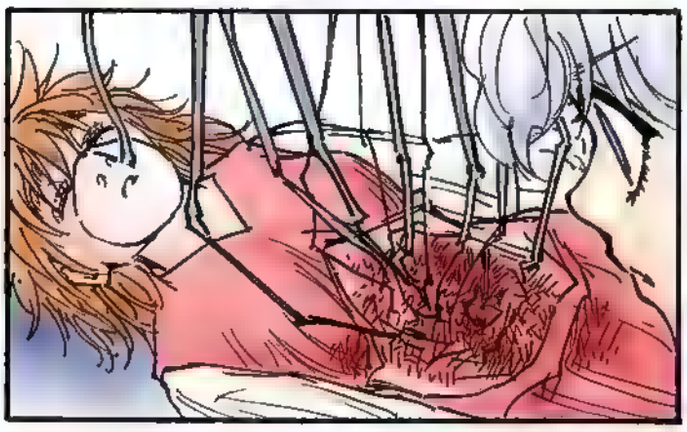
SINCE NONE OF THIS...


PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, DAMN IT!!!
WE'RE HERE TO GET KITE BACK!!

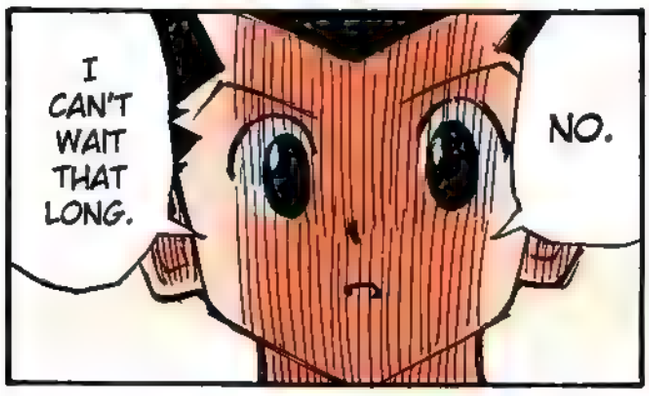
DID YOU FORGET WHAT YOU SAID IN THE BEGINNING?
I'M ONLY SAYING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE LOSING IT.

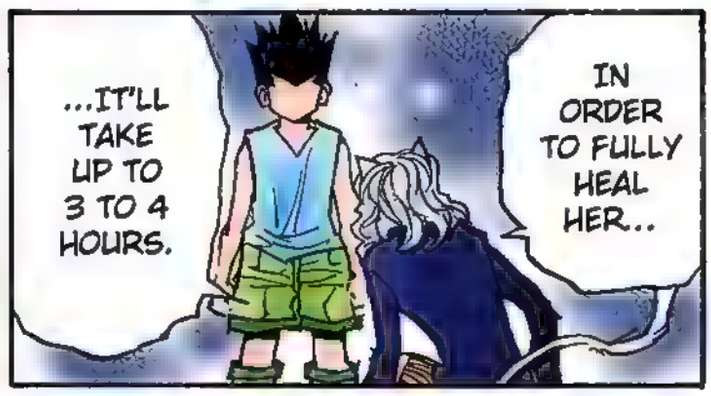
YEAH.
I'M OKAY NOW...

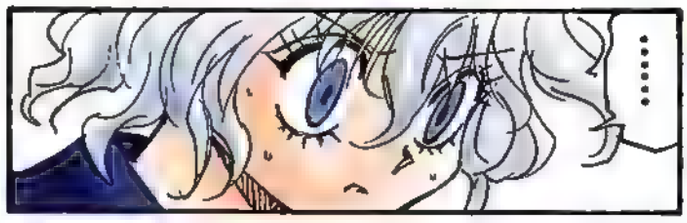




HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO WAIT?
HOW LONG?


I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG.
NO.


...IT'LL TAKE UP TO 3 TO 4 HOURS.
IN ORDER TO FULLY HEAL HER..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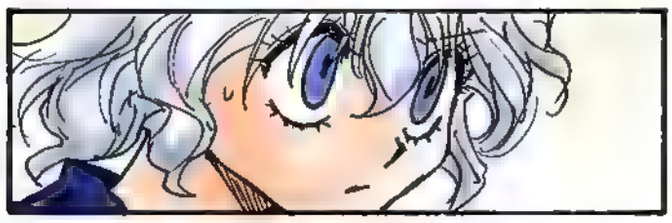
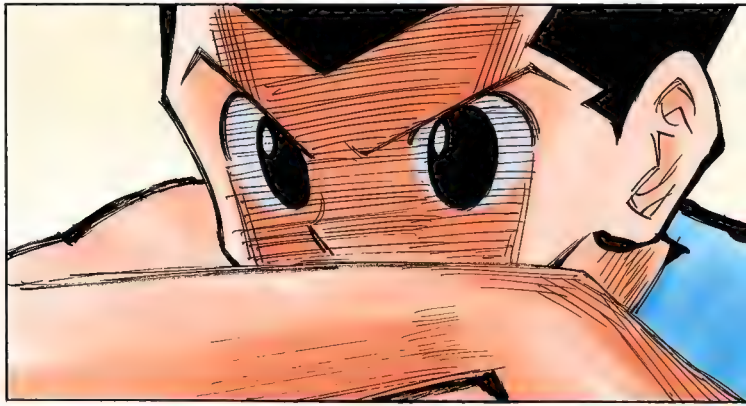


I CAN HEAL HER MOST CRITICAL INJURIES.
IF I CAN HAVE... ONE MORE HOUR..

PLEASE.
I BEG OF YOU ...!!
IN ONE HOUR, YOU'RE GOING TO COME WITH ME TO PEIJING...
...AND YOU'RE GOING TO HEAL KITE.
I PROMISE!
I SWEAR ...!!
CAN YOU PROMISE ME THAT?!

...FOR ONE HOUR!!
I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE...



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No.276 ◆ PROMISE

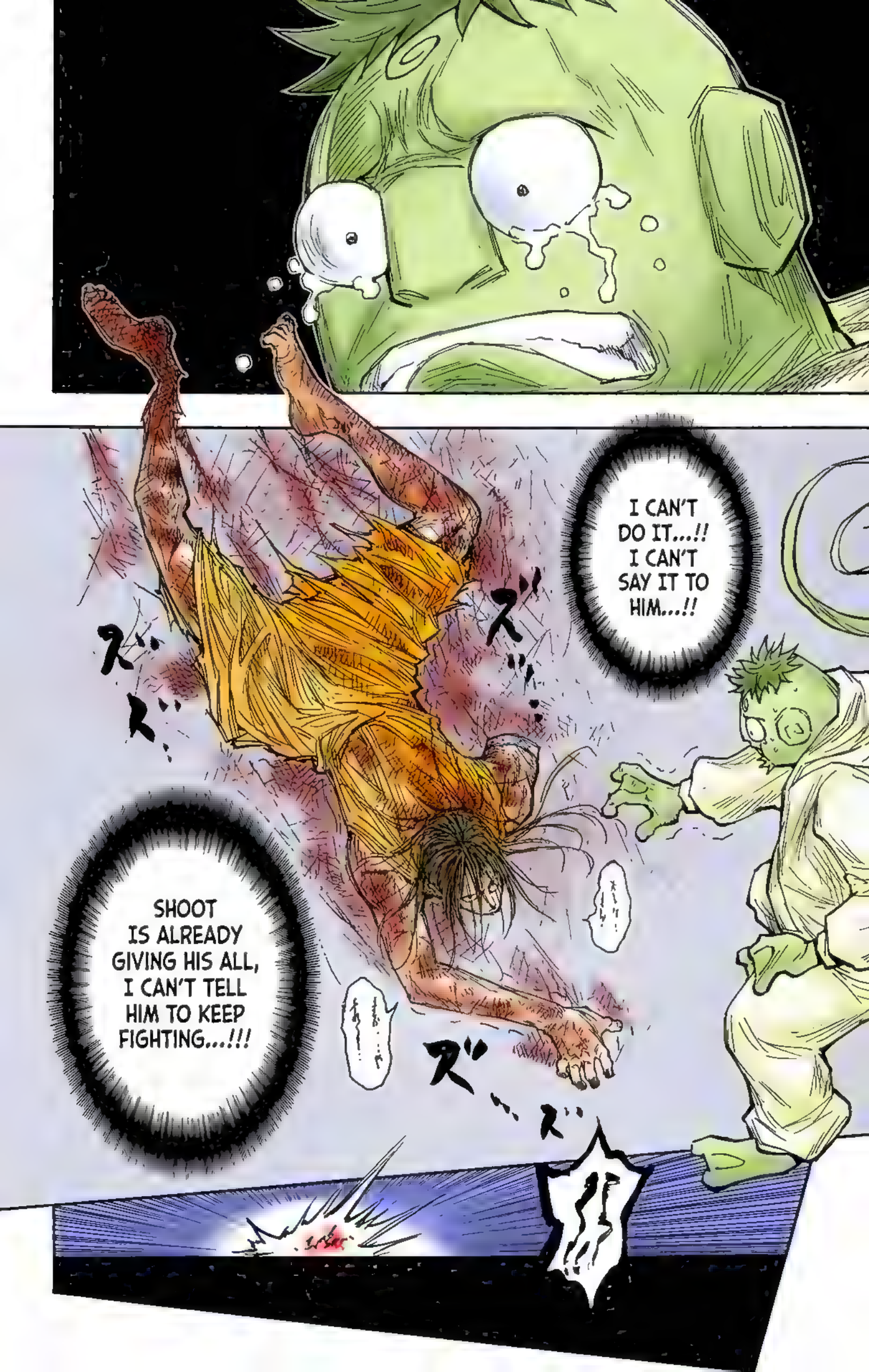
THE NUMBER WENT UP?!
!?
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
IT'S TIME.
354
ビュッ
ビュッ
ボシュッ
……

354
シュウウウ
ス…
ANSWER ME!!
DON'T RUN AWAY!!
WHAT IS THIS THING ?!
MY ATTACKS DON'T AFFECT IT?!
WHAT IS THIS THING ?!!
ヒュオッ!!
ドッ!!

IF YOU WANNA KNOW, CATCH ME FIRST !!
GHR...
I AIN'T GONNA TELL YOU, BASTARD !!!!

IN THAT CASE...!!
I CAN'T WEAVE THROUGH THAT DEADLY SWORD-LIKE ONSLAUGHT TO GET HIM...!!
KNUCKLE'S PLANNING TO FIGHT YOUPI ALONE!!
THAT WAY I CAN CONSUME THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF OXYGEN!!
I'LL WALK AT A PACE THAT'S NOT TOO FAST, BUT NOT TOO SLOW.

グラ
ドオ
I CAN'T... PASS OUT RIGHT NOW...!!
ボウウウウ
ANY... MINOR WOUND, WILL SURELY NOT BE IN VAIN...!!!
I...
IF I DO PASS OUT NOW, "HOTEL RAFFLESIA" WILL CEASE TO REMAIN ACTIVE...
I... CAN... KEEP GOING ...!
I CAN... STILL...
ズズズズ


I CAN'T DO IT...!! I CAN'T SAY IT TO HIM...!!
SHOOT IS ALREADY GIVING HIS ALL, I CAN'T TELL HIM TO KEEP FIGHTING...!!!
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ズ
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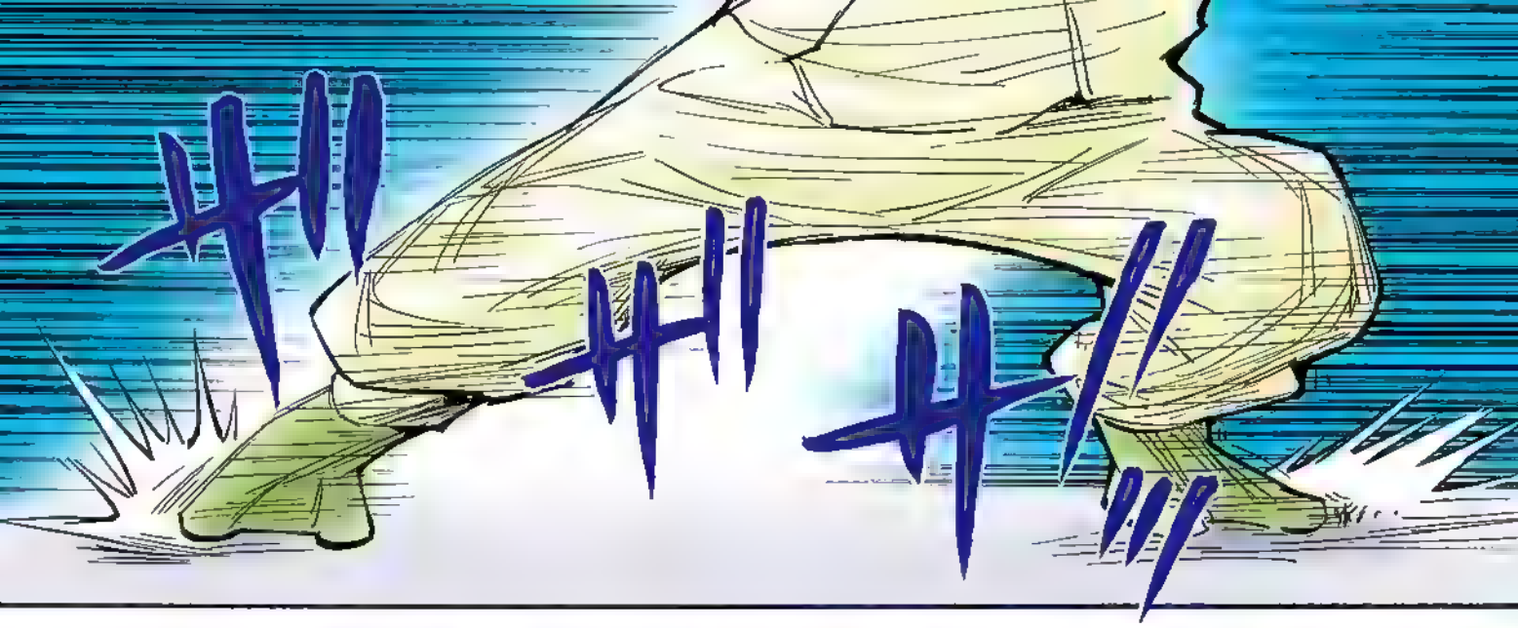
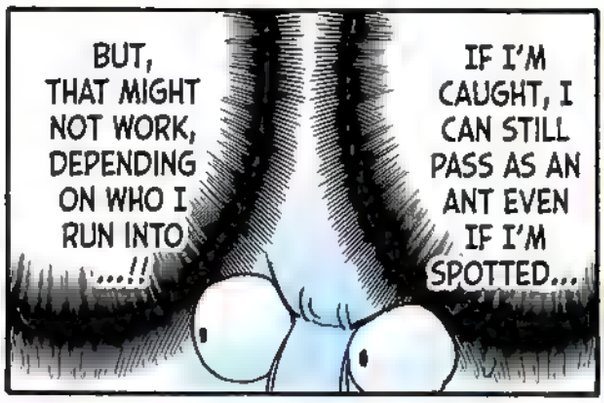
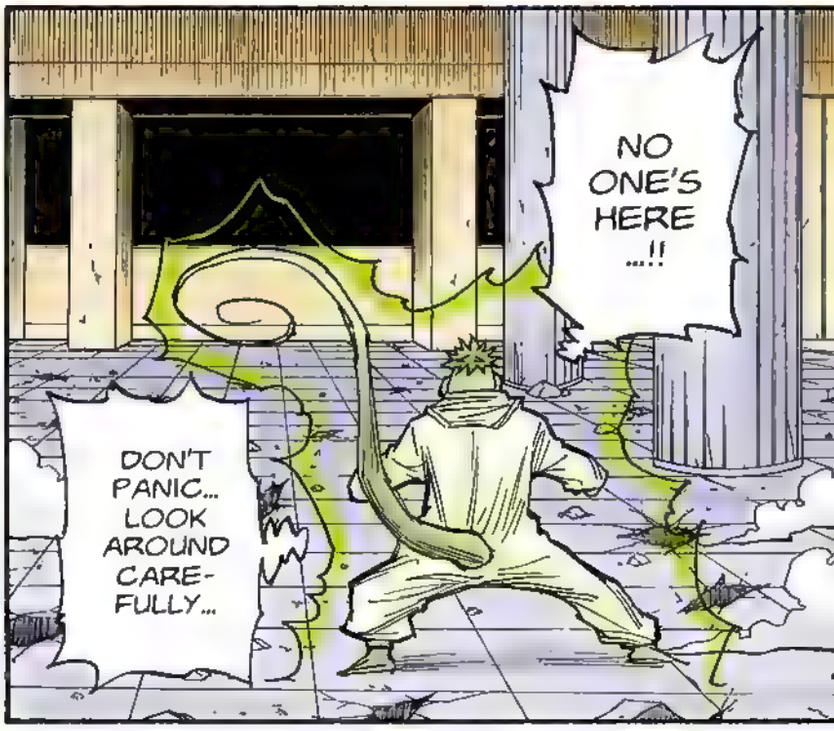
...ISN'T HELPING SHOOT!!
RIGHT NOW, MY JOB...
...TO COMPLETE THE MISSION AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!!
IT'S TO USE MY ABILITY TO HELP THE OTHERS...
DON'T DIE...!!!
YOU HAVE TO SURVIVE!! SHOOT !!

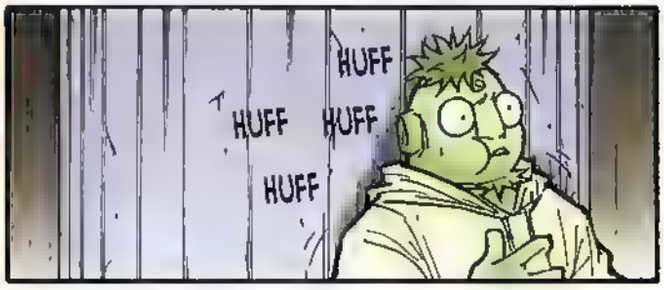


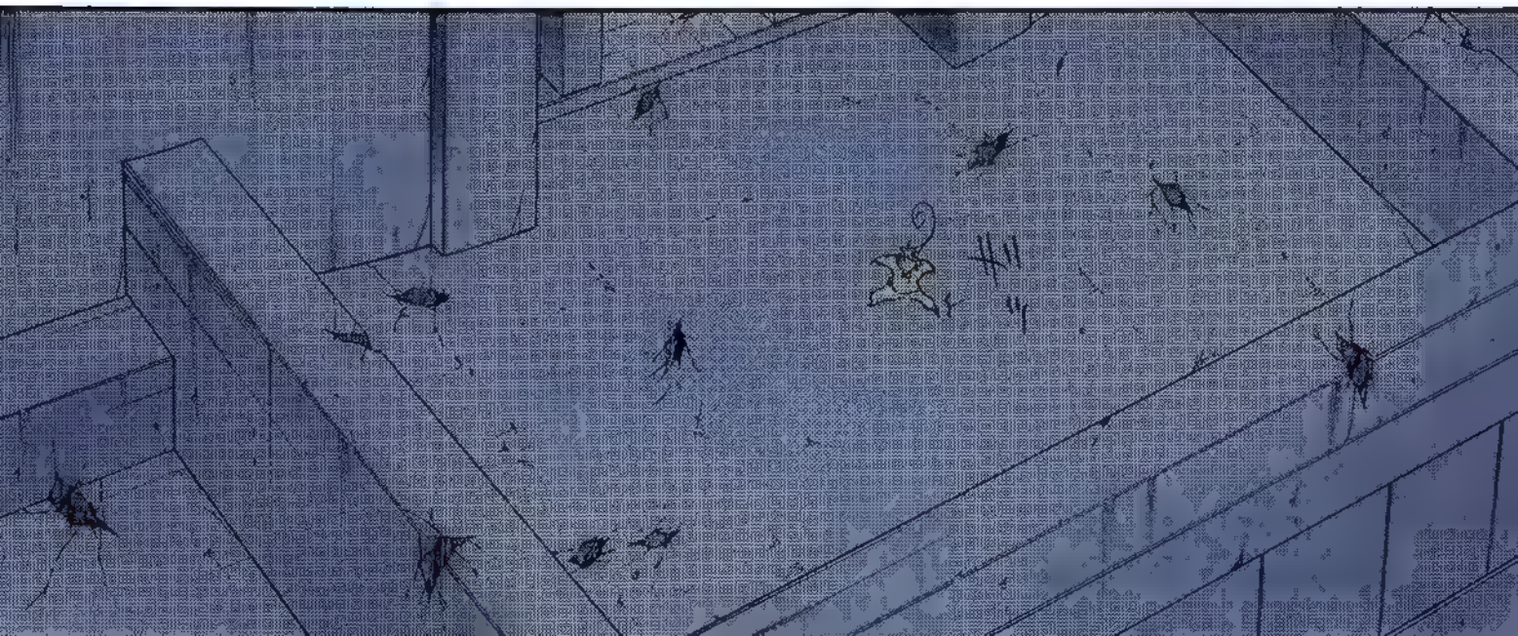

BUT, THAT MIGHT NOT WORK, DEPENDING ON WHO I RUN INTO ...!!
IF I'M CAUGHT, I CAN STILL PASS AS AN ANT EVEN IF I'M SPOTTED...

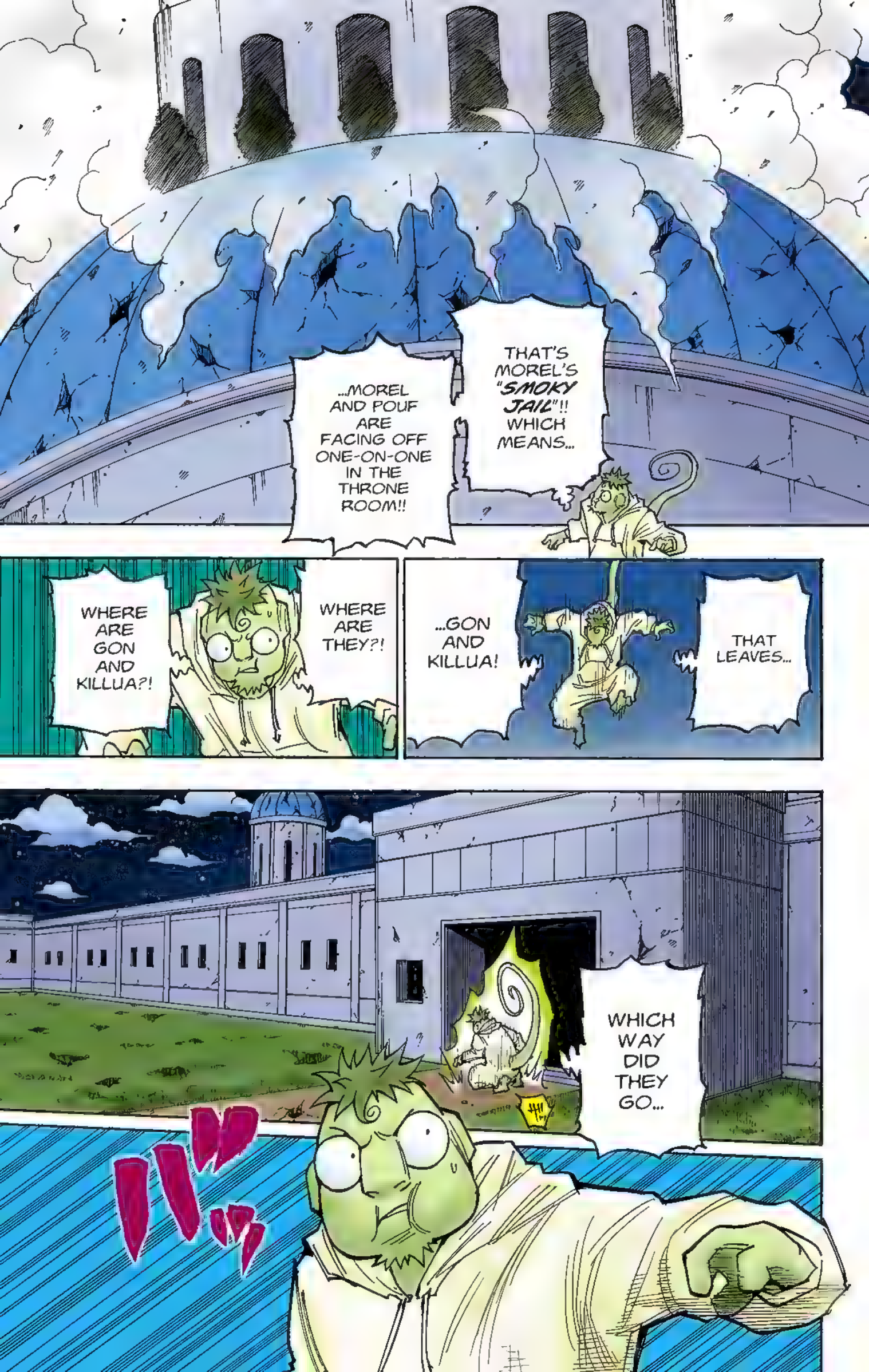

NO ONE'S HERE ...!!
DON'T PANIC... LOOK AROUND CARE-FULLY...

PHAAAW
"PERFECT PLAN" DEAC-TIVATE!!

ACTI-VATE!!
OKAY !!

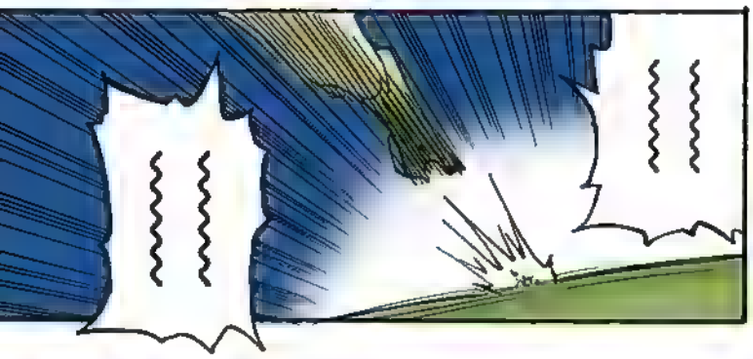

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

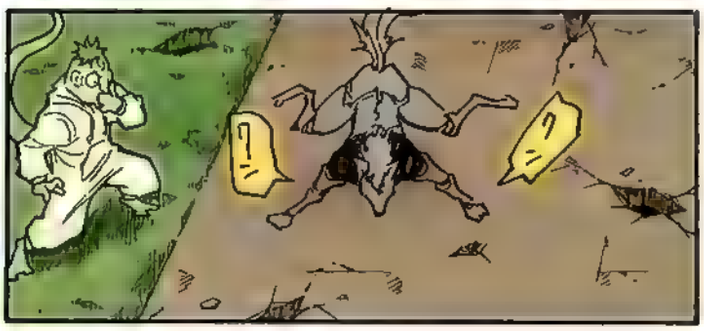


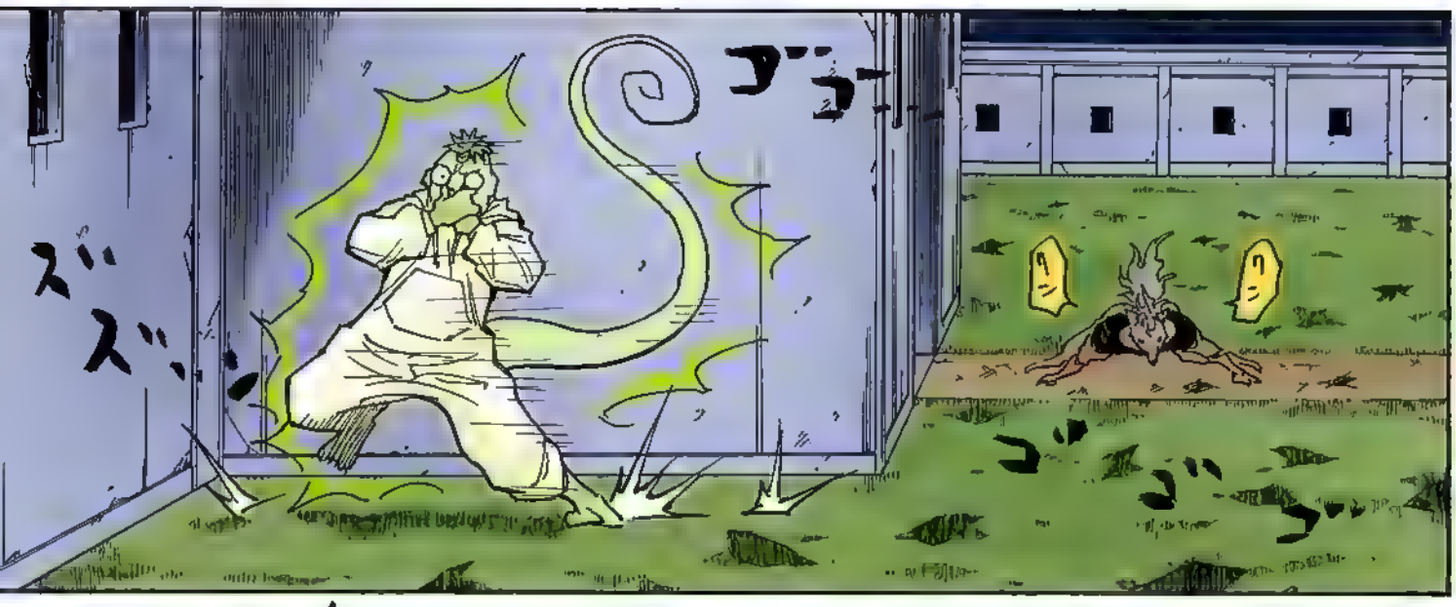

...MOREL AND POUF ARE FACING OFF ONE-ON-ONE IN THE THRONE ROOM!!
THAT'S MOREL'S "SMOKY JAIL"!! WHICH MEANS...
WHERE ARE GON AND KILLUA?!
WHERE ARE THEY?!
...GON AND KILLUA!
THAT LEAVES...
WHICH WAY DID THEY GO...

HURK
WEL-FIN!!
OH, NO!!
DO I WAIT FOR HIM TO LEAVE?! CAN I HOLD IT FOR THAT LONG?!
WHAT IF HE GOES THE SAME WAY ...?!
BUT WHICH WAY?!
I'M RUNNING OUT OF BREATH... DO I RUN?!
ONCE HE SUSPECTS YOU, HE WON'T TRUST YOU AGAIN!! NOT UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD!!
OUT OF ALL THE SQUADRON LEADERS, HE'S THE BIGGEST SKEPTIC!
HE'S TROUBLE!!

I'M AT MY LIMIT!!!
I CAN'T!!! I'M ABOUT TO BLOW!!!



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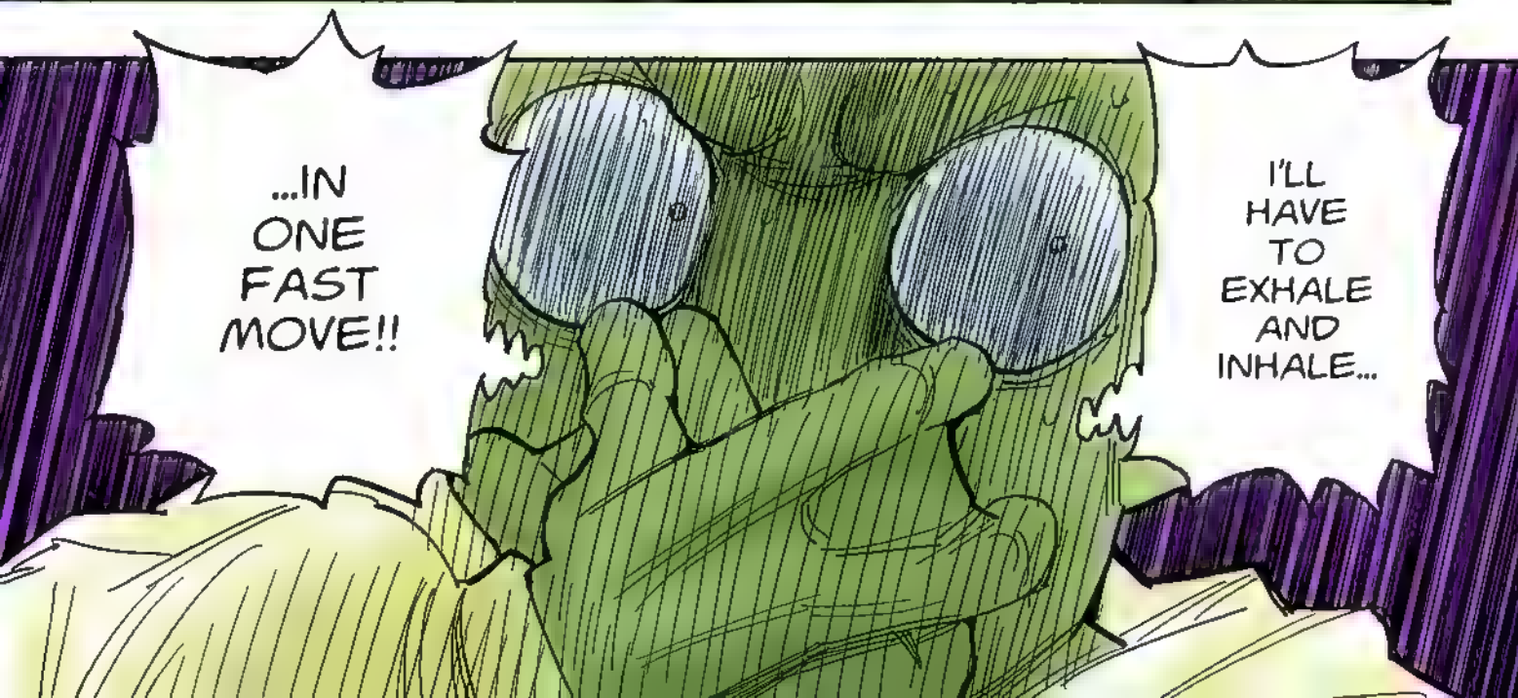
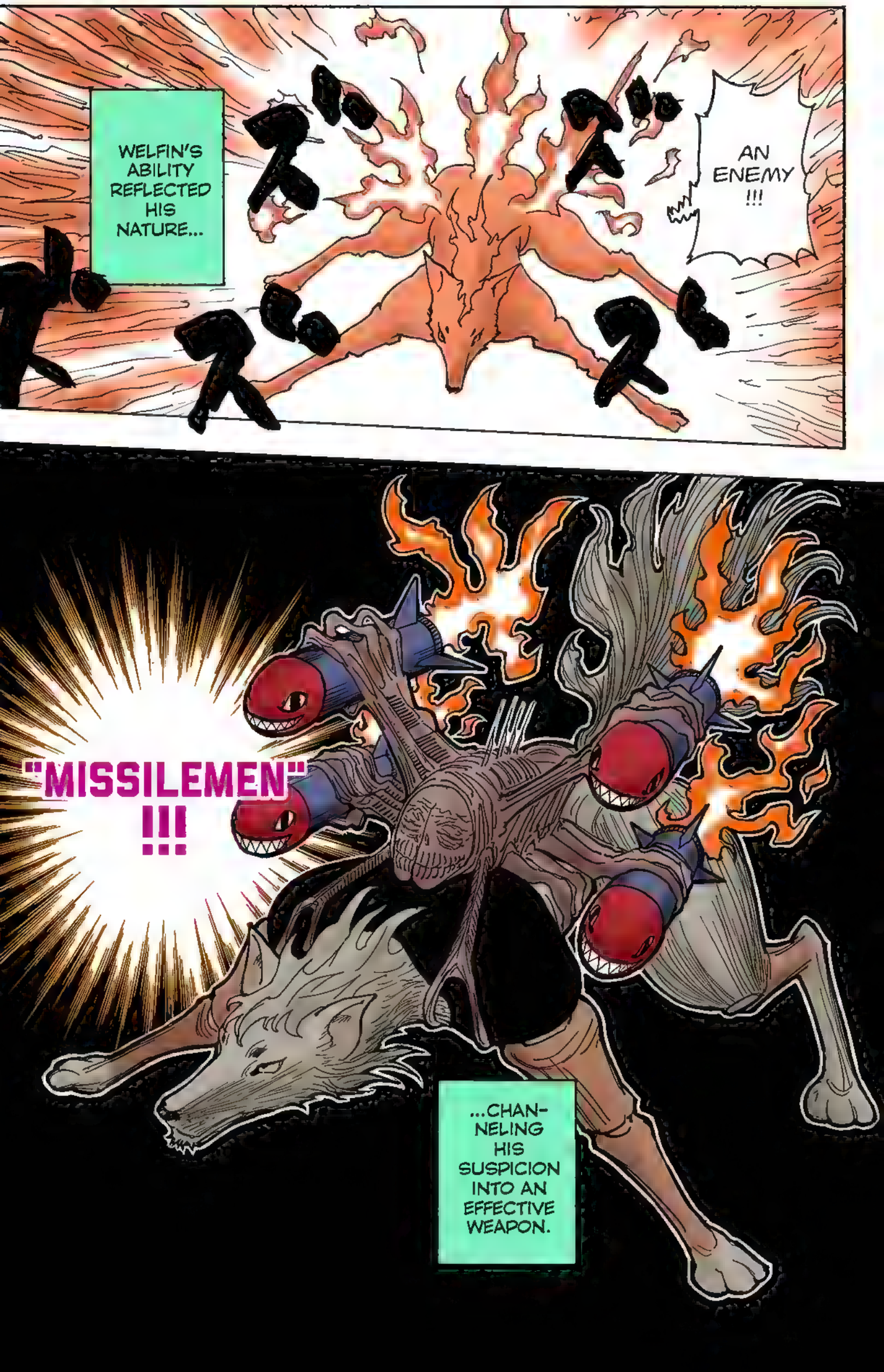
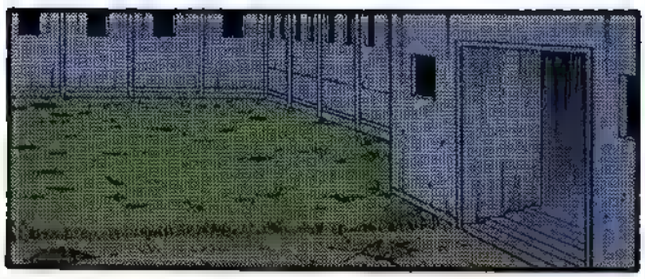
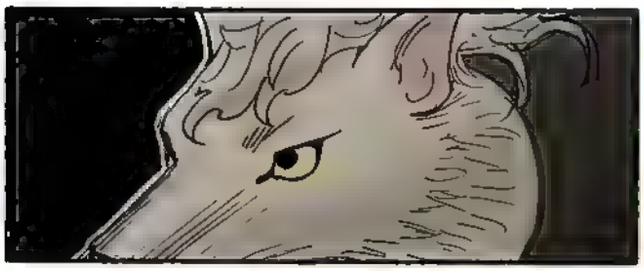

...IN ONE FAST MOVE!!
I'LL HAVE TO EXHALE AND INHALE...

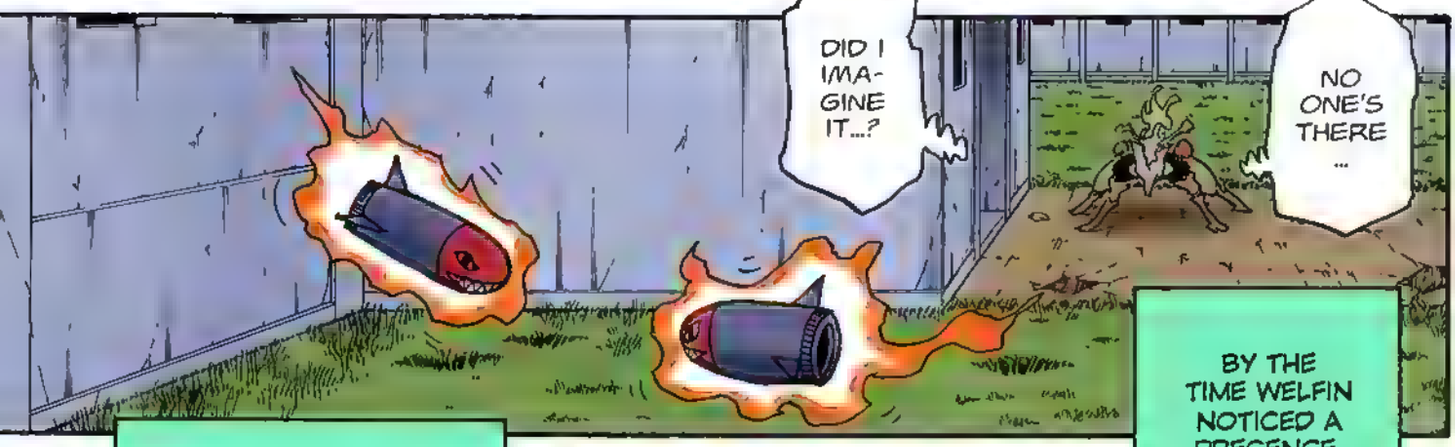
NOW INHALE !!!
"PERFECT PLAN" DEACTIVATE!!
ACTIVATE!!
ドォォォォン
...DID I SENSE SOME-THING...?
FOR A SECOND THERE...


WELFIN'S ABILITY REFLECTED HIS NATURE...
AN ENEMY !!!
"MISSILEMEN" !!!
...CHANNELING HIS SUSPICION INTO AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON.

3
2
1
SURRENDER AND SHOW YOURSELF BY THE TIME I COUNT DOWN FROM 3!!
YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND THAT BUILDING !!
OR ELSE, I'LL ATTACK !!
FIRE!!!







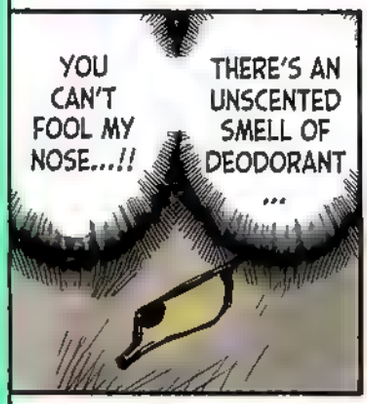
BY THE TIME WELFIN NOTICED A PRESENCE, MELEORON WAS ALREADY GONE.

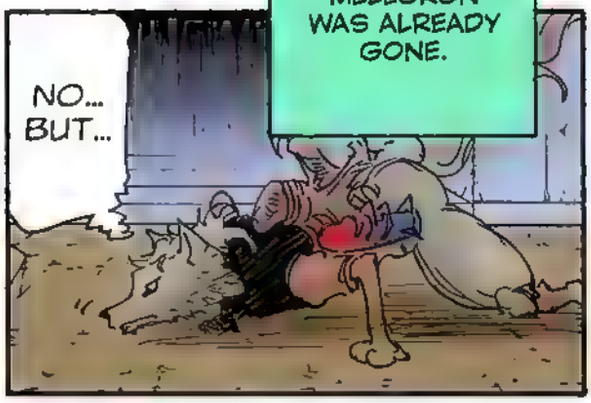
TO USE MISSILEMAN, WELFIN HAS 3 CONDITIONS:

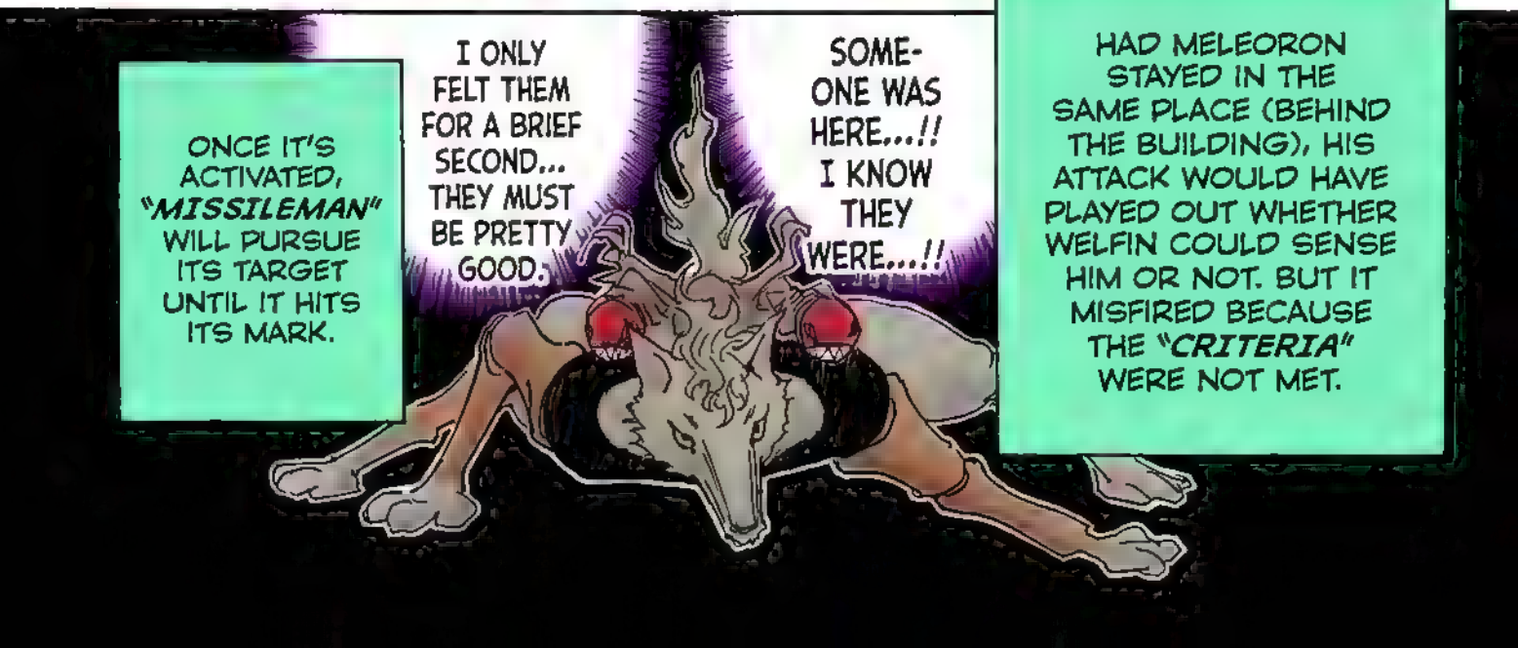
① HE CHOOSES THE "*TARGET.*"

② THE BULLET IS LOADED WITH A "*QUESTION OR AN ORDER.*"

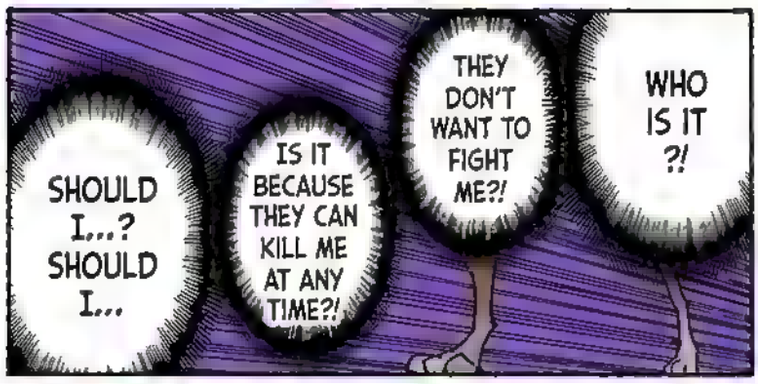
③ IF THE TARGET LIES OR DEFIES THE ORDER, THE ATTACK COMMENCES.

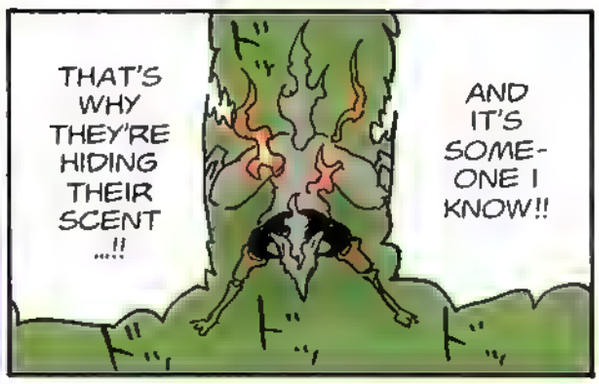




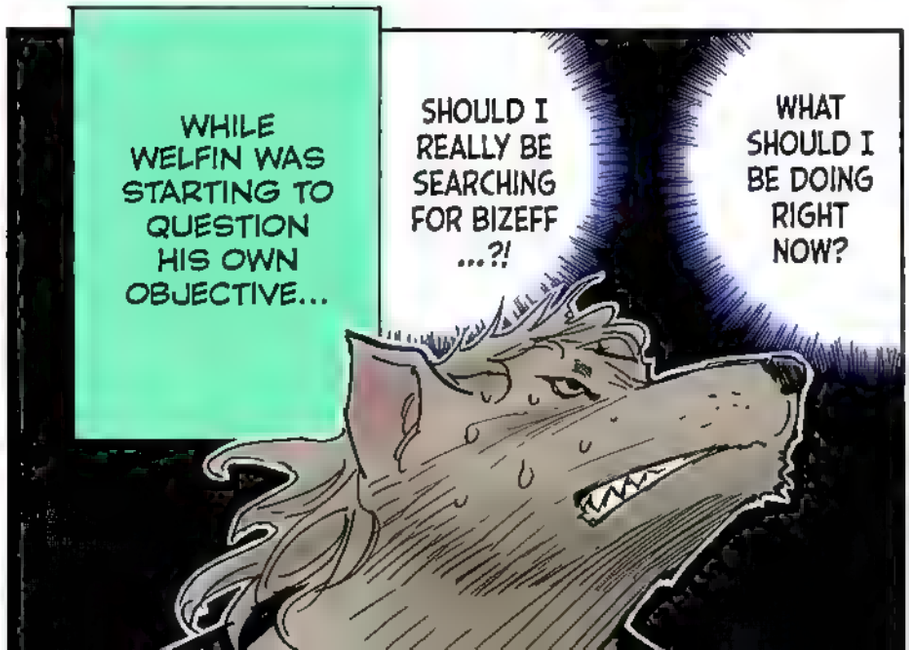


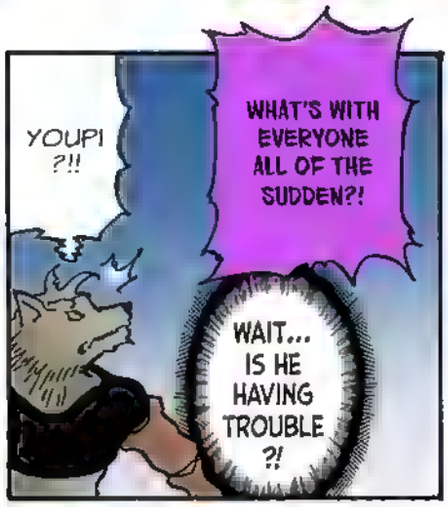
HOWEVER, WELFIN UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS ABILITY WASN'T INVINCIBLE.
SO, THERE ARE OTHERS BESIDE FLUTTER?! THE ANSWER IS PROBABLY A YES!!
THIS CONFIRMS THAT THERE ARE TRAITORS AMONG US!!
THEIR USE OF DEODORANT CONFIRMS THAT THEY'RE AWARE OF MY NOSE.
NO ONE CAN SURVIVE THE IMPACT.

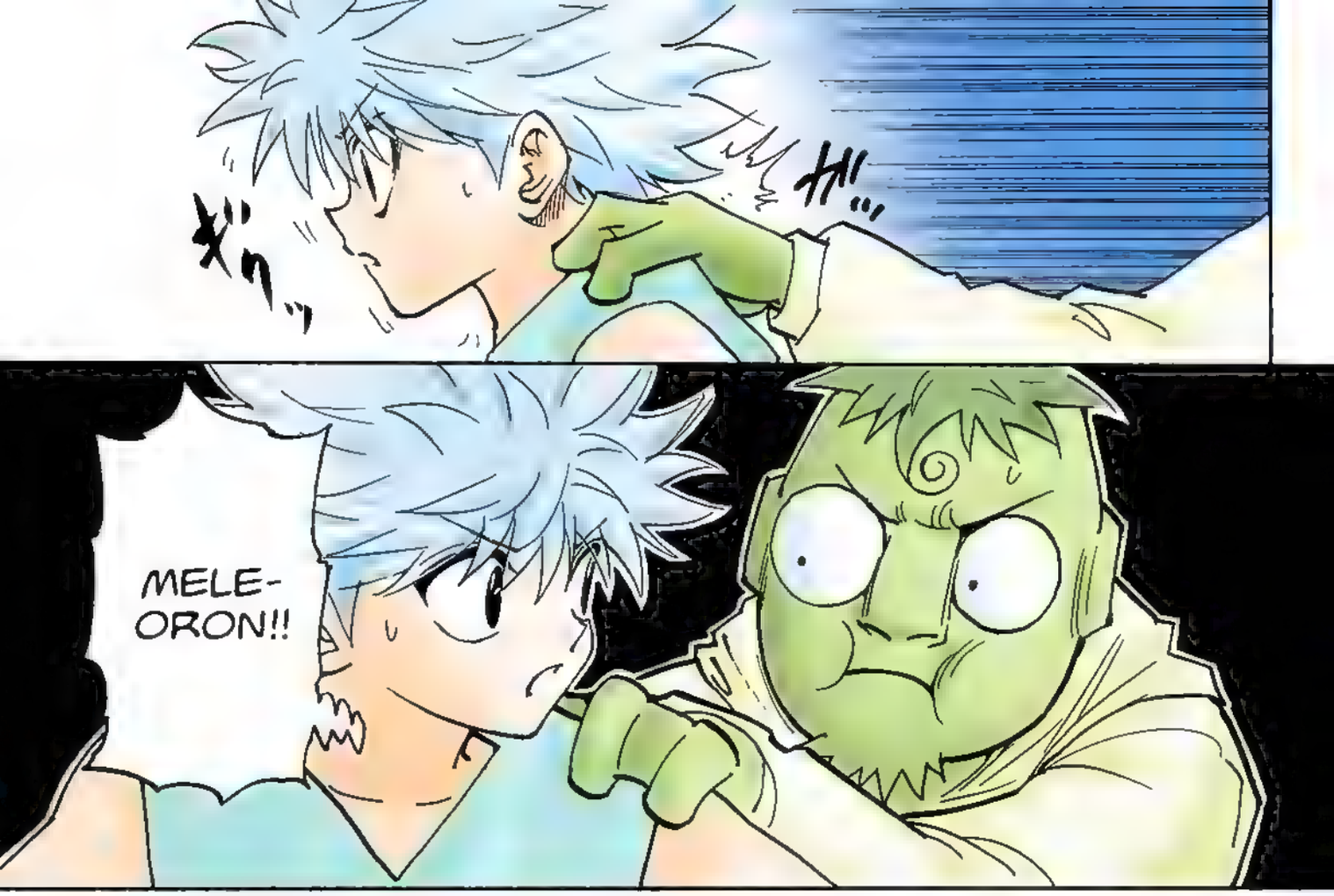

SHOULD I...? SHOULD I...
IS IT BECAUSE THEY CAN KILL ME AT ANY TIME?!
THEY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ME?!
WHO IS IT ?!

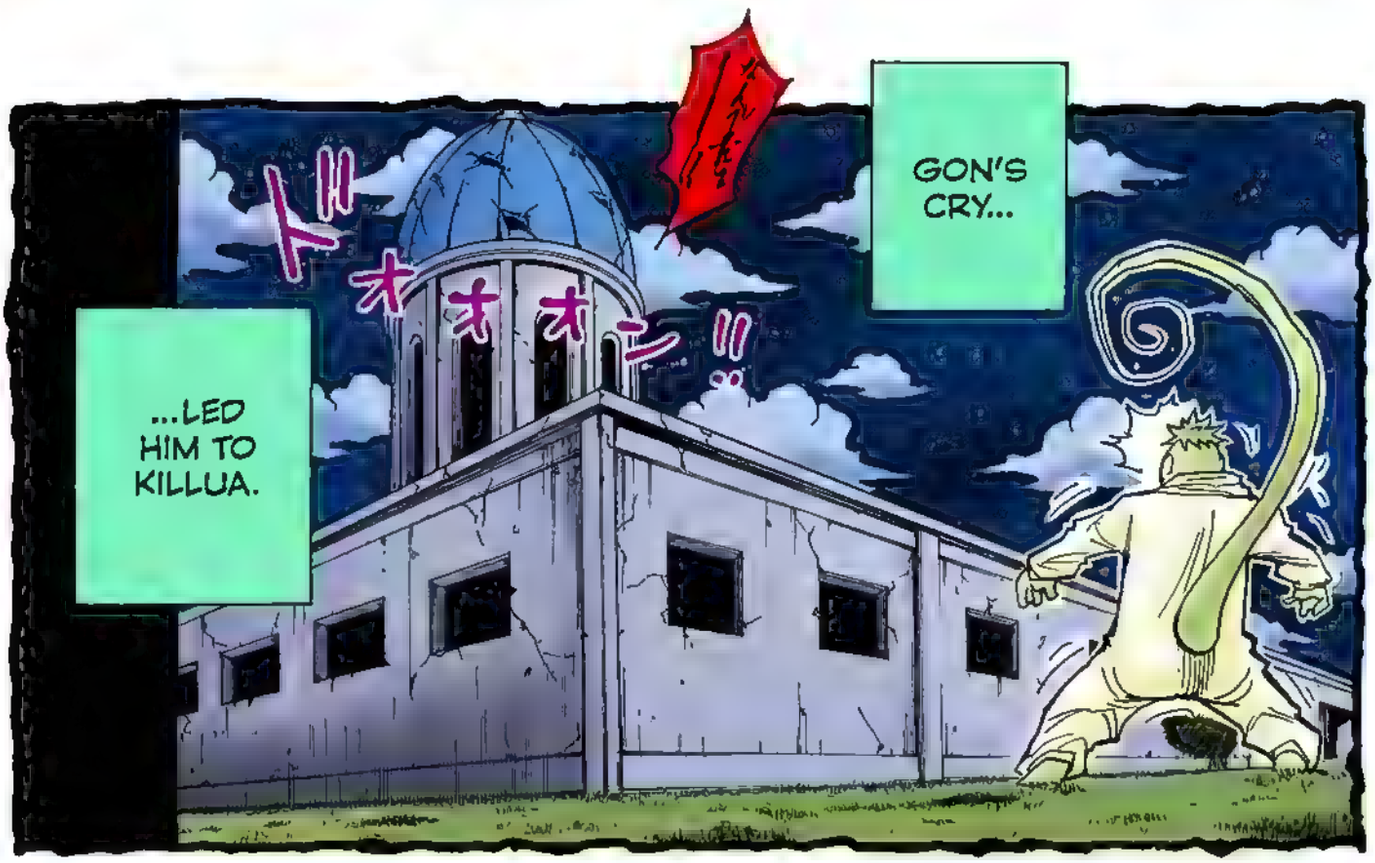

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HIDING THEIR SCENT ...!!
AND IT'S SOME-ONE I KNOW!!

HE SOUGHT TO BECOME "THE KING" BEHIND THE SCENES, SINCE A "TRUE KING" WOULD HAVE MORE WORRIES THAN HE COULD TOLERATE.
...BE ON THE CHIMERA ANTS' SIDE?
WELFIN WAS EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS OF HIS OWN ABILITY. HE ONLY THOUGHT OF MISSILEMAN AS A "NEGOTIATING TOOL."
SHOULD I EVEN...


WHILE WELFIN WAS STARTING TO QUESTION HIS OWN OBJECTIVE...
SHOULD I REALLY BE SEARCHING FOR BIZEFF ...?!
WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING RIGHT NOW?


YOUP! ?!!
WHAT'S WITH EVERYONE ALL OF THE SUDDEN?!
WAIT... IS HE HAVING TROUBLE ?!





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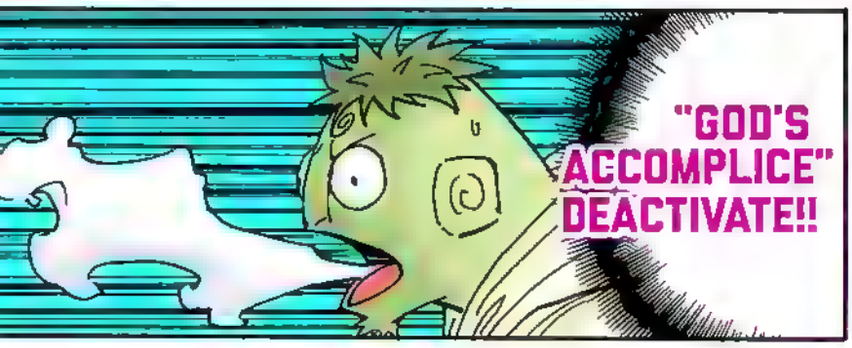
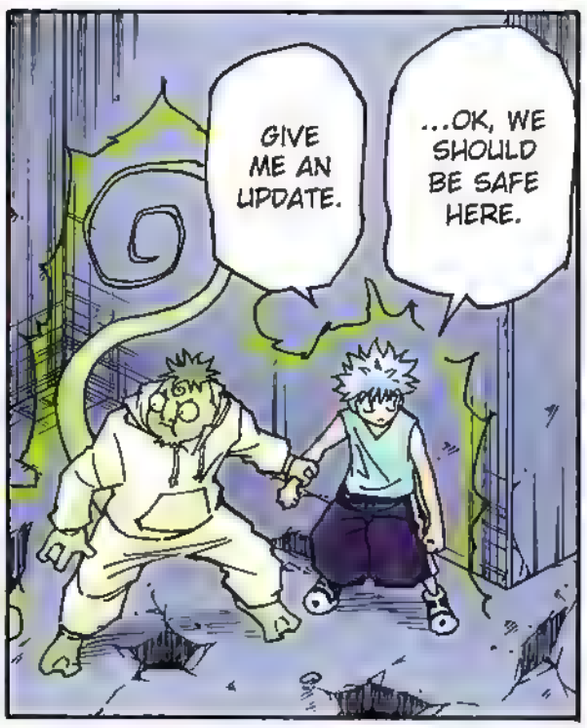
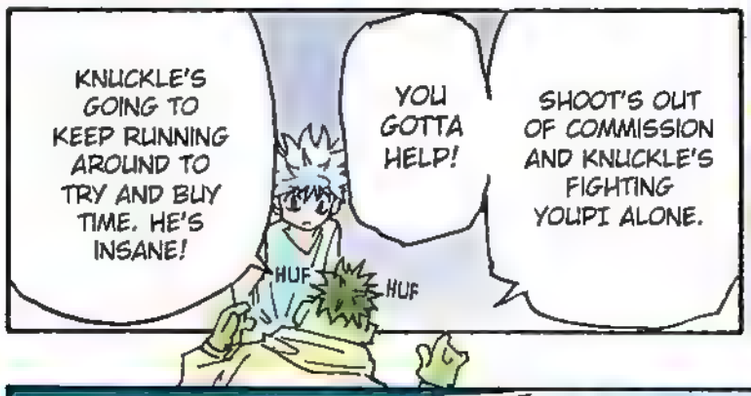
No.277 ◆ INSULT

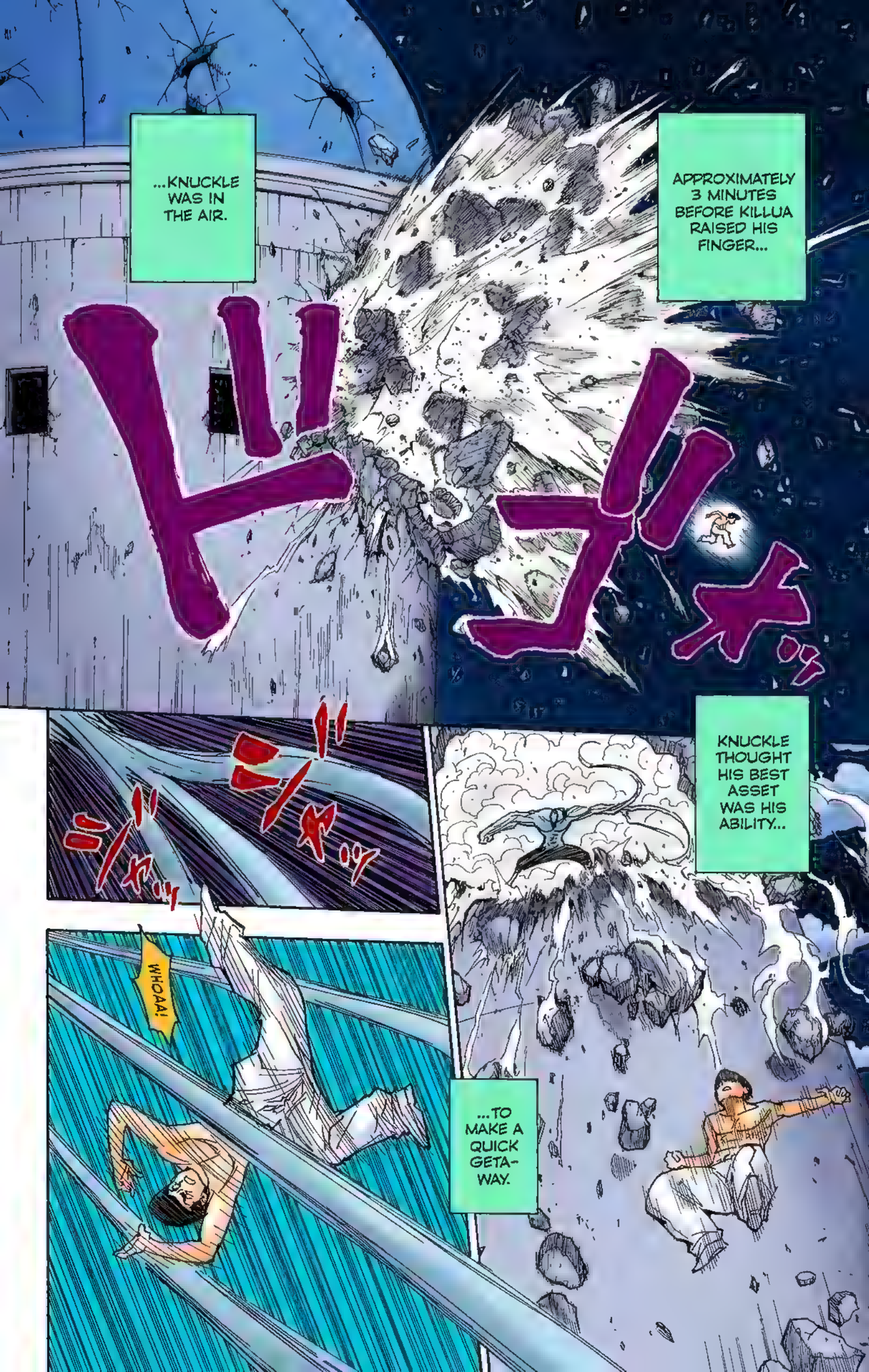

"GOD'S ACCOMPLICE" DEACTIVATE!!

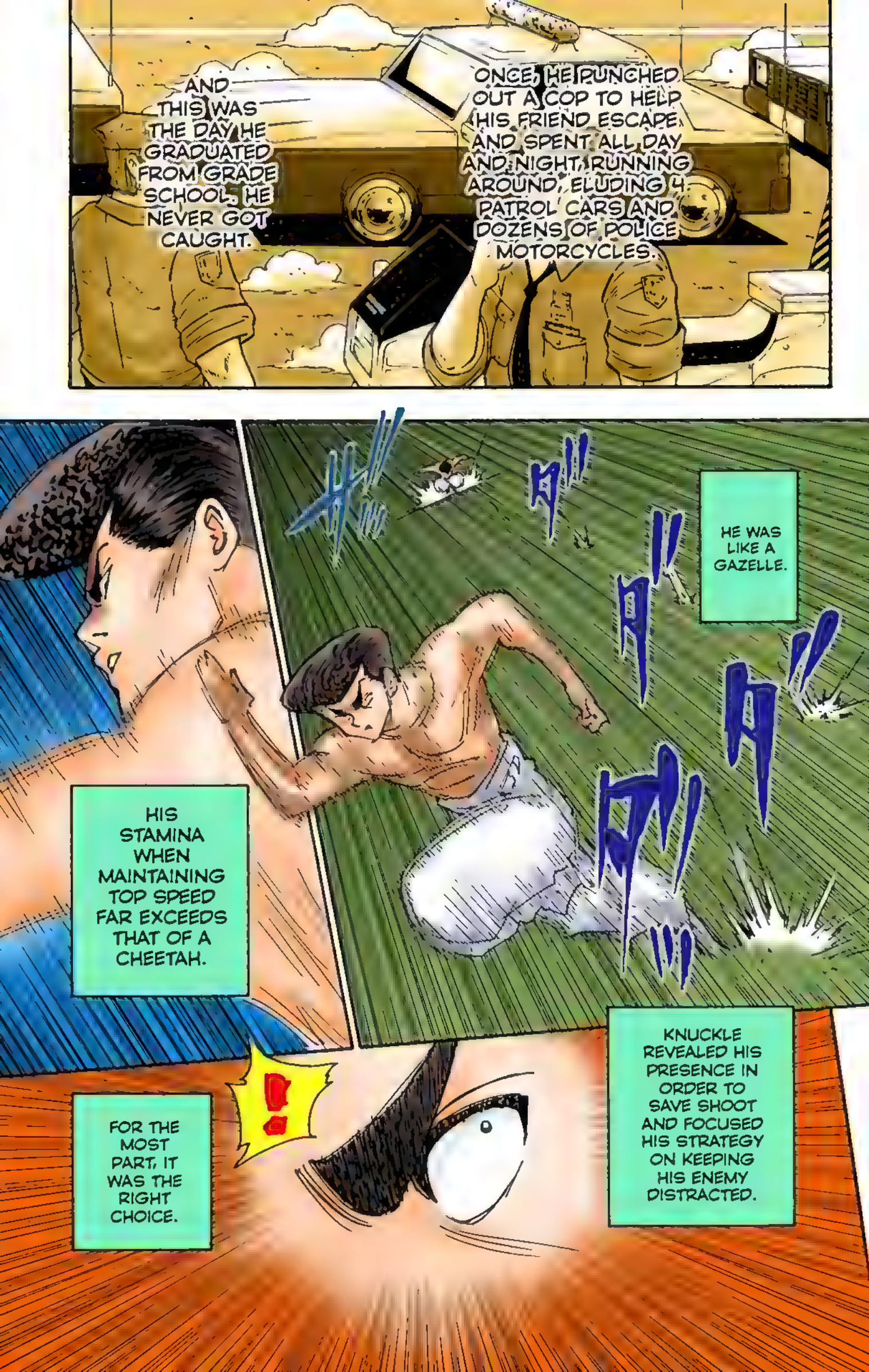

GIVE ME AN UPDATE.
...OK, WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE.

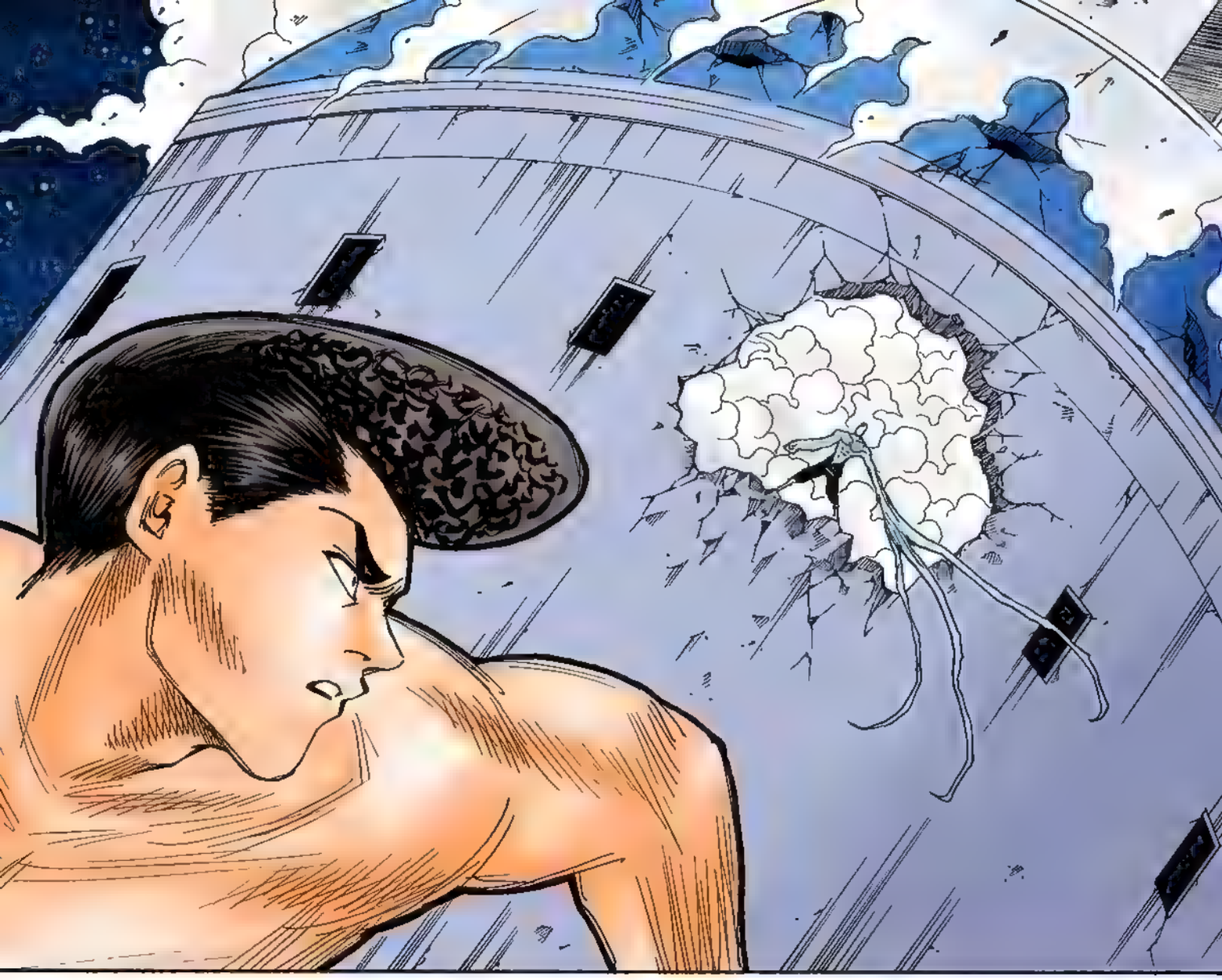

KNUCKLE'S GOING TO KEEP RUNNING AROUND TO TRY AND BUY TIME. HE'S INSANE!
YOU GOTTA HELP!
SHOOT'S OUT OF COMMISSION AND KNUCKLE'S FIGHTING YOUPI ALONE.
HUF
HUF

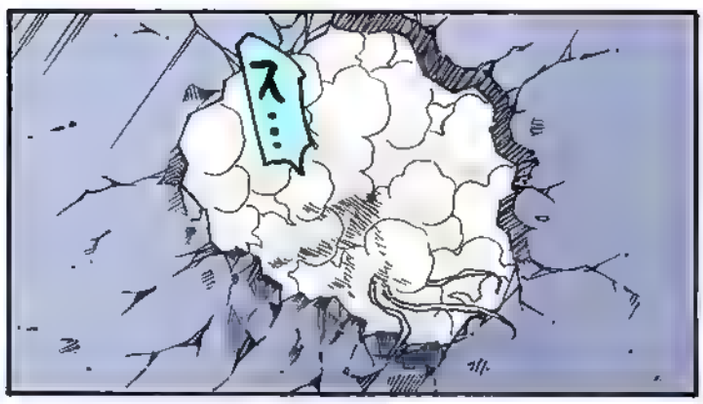
WHAT'S THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME YOU CAN USE "GOD'S ACCOMPLICE"?
OKAY.

OK.
THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME. SO GIVE ME ONE SHOT.
BUT I'VE CALMED DOWN NOW. I CAN GO A MINUTE IF I DON'T HAVE TO MOVE!
FIRST TIME, I WAS SO NERVOUS, I FAILED AND HAD TO TAP OUT AFTER 10 SECONDS.


...KNUCKLE WAS IN THE AIR.
APPROXIMATELY 3 MINUTES BEFORE KILLUA RAISED HIS FINGER...
ドゴォッ
KNUCKLE THOUGHT HIS BEST ASSET WAS HIS ABILITY...
ビュッ
ビュッ
ビュッ
WHOAA!
...TO MAKE A QUICK GETA-WAY.


AND THIS WAS THE DAY HE GRADUATED FROM GRADE SCHOOL. HE NEVER GOT CAUGHT.
ONCE, HE PUNCHED OUT A COP TO HELP HIS FRIEND ESCAPE AND SPENT ALL DAY AND NIGHT RUNNING AROUND, ELUDING 4 PATROL CARS AND DOZENS OF POLICE MOTORCYCLES.
HE WAS LIKE A GAZELLE.
HIS STAMINA WHEN MAINTAINING TOP SPEED FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF A CHEETAH.
FOR THE MOST PART, IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.
KNUCKLE REVEALED HIS PRESENCE IN ORDER TO SAVE SHOOT AND FOCUSED HIS STRATEGY ON KEEPING HIS ENEMY DISTRACTED.

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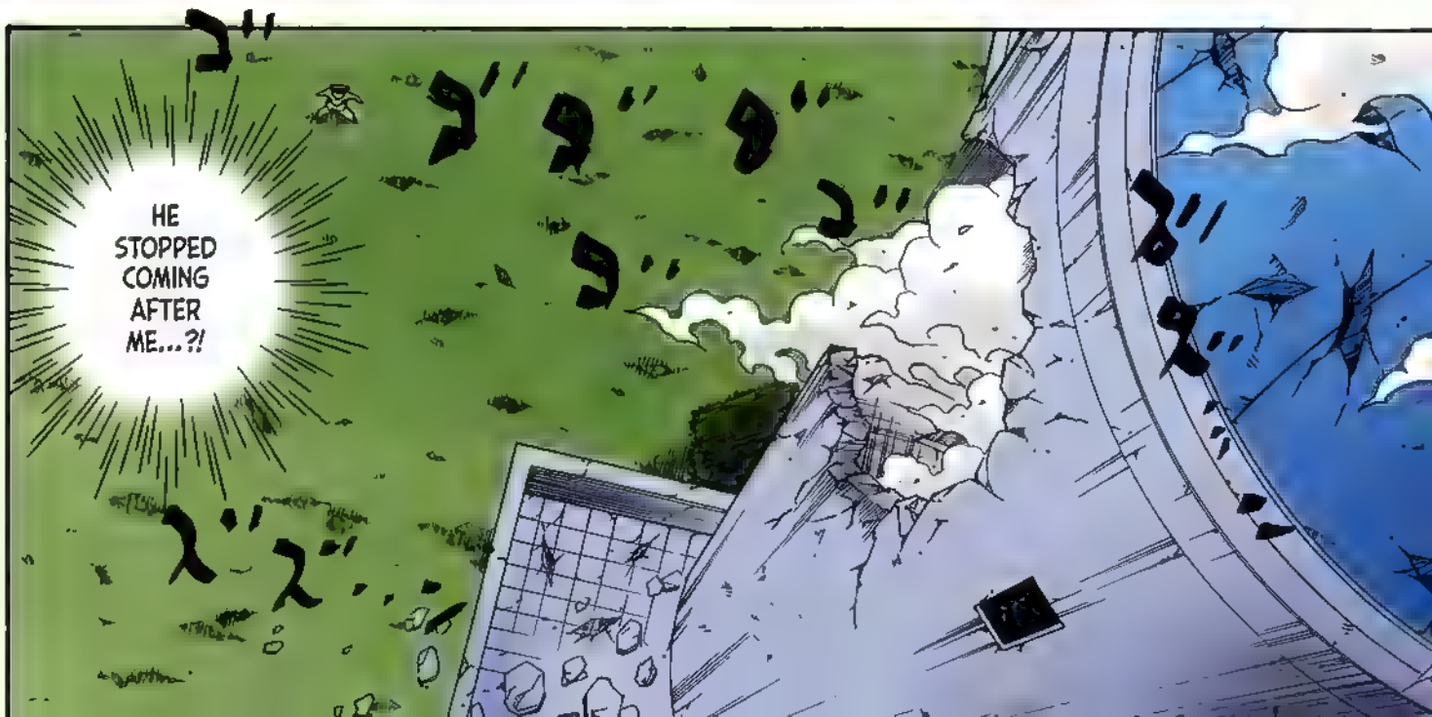
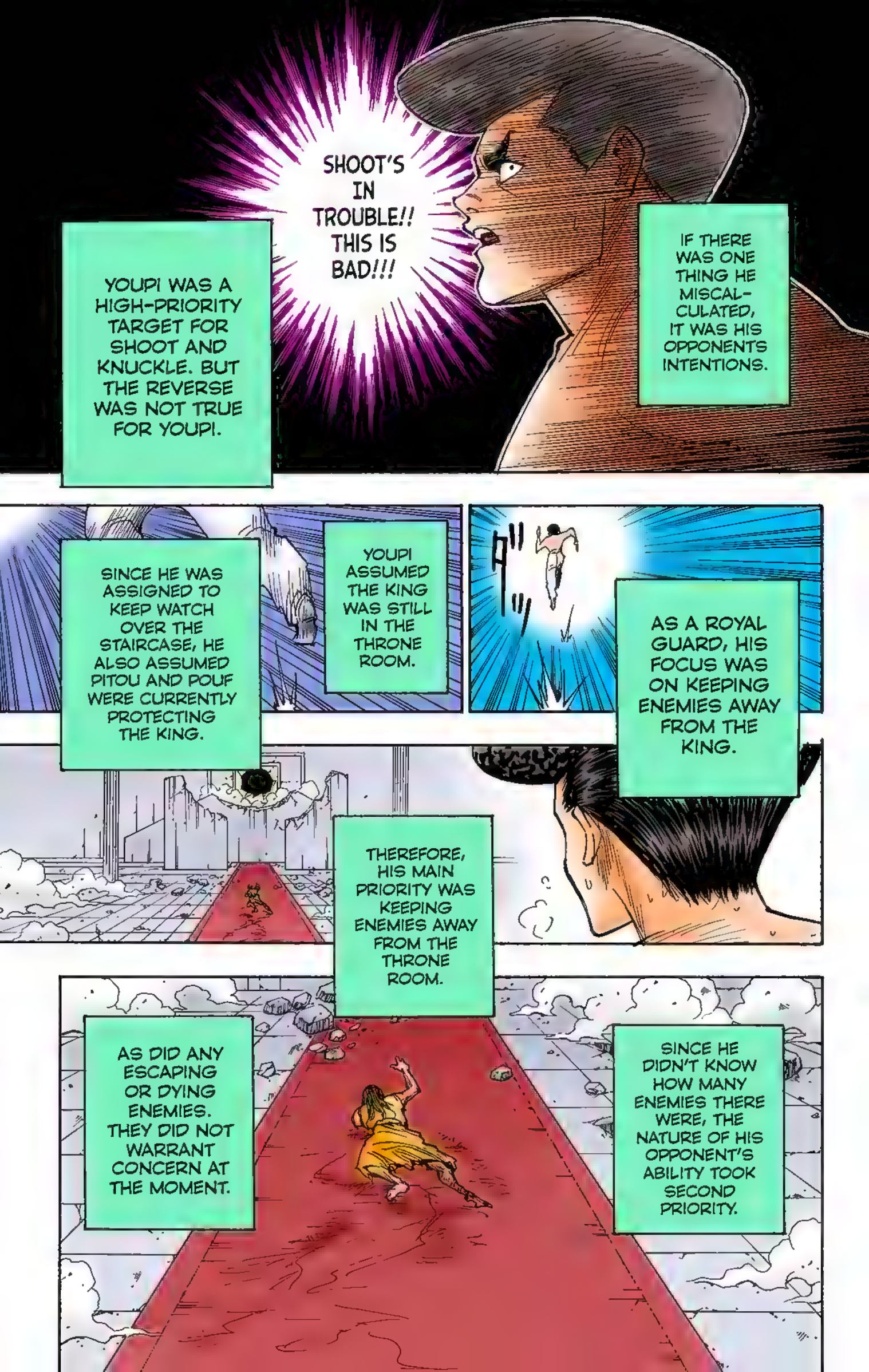
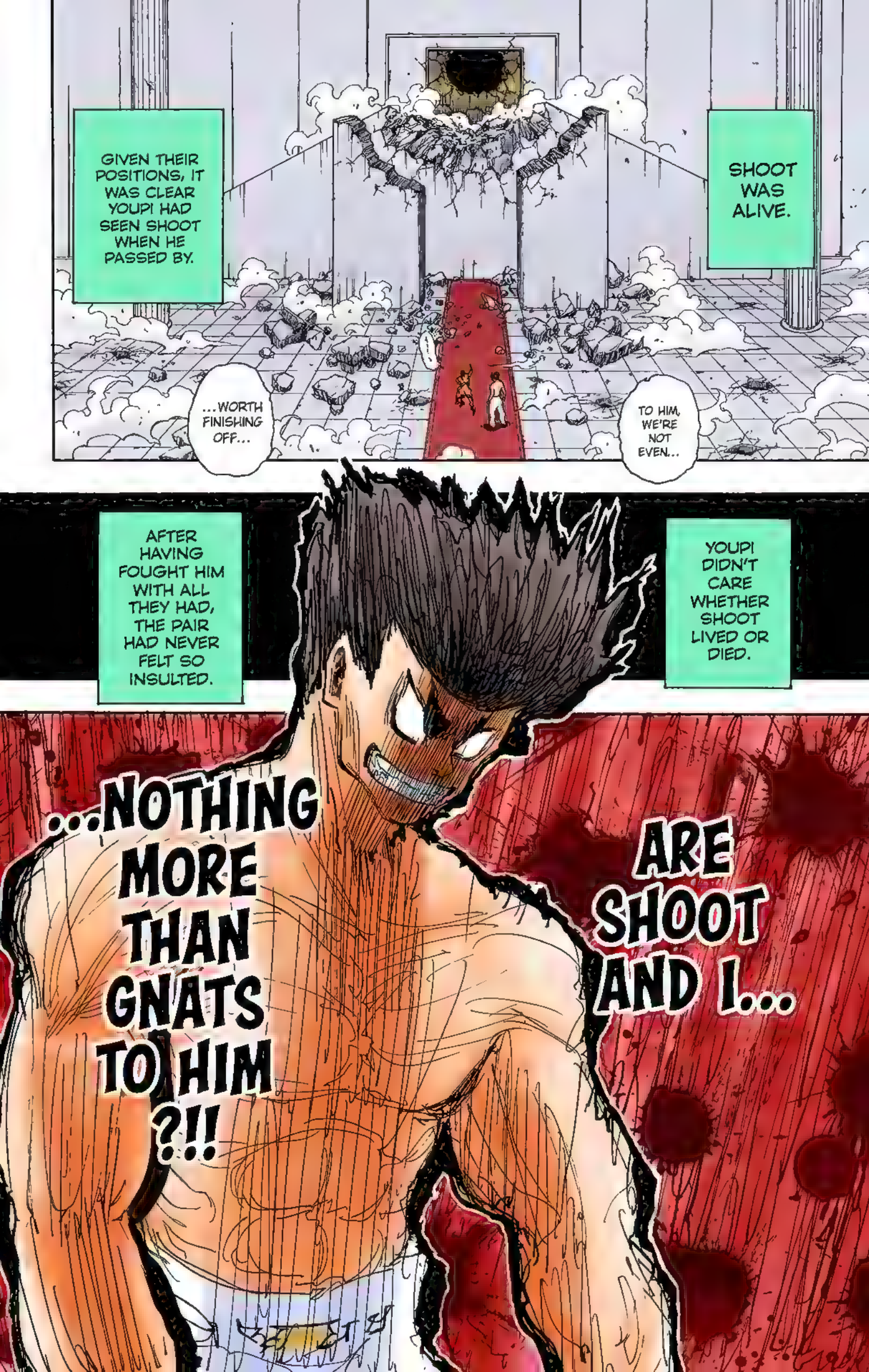

HE STOPPED COMING AFTER ME...?!


SHOOT'S IN TROUBLE!! THIS IS BAD!!!
YOUPI WAS A HIGH-PRIORITY TARGET FOR SHOOT AND KNUCKLE. BUT THE REVERSE WAS NOT TRUE FOR YOUPI.
IF THERE WAS ONE THING HE MISCAL-CULATED, IT WAS HIS OPPONENTS INTENTIONS.
SINCE HE WAS ASSIGNED TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE STAIRCASE, HE ALSO ASSUMED PITOU AND POUF WERE CURRENTLY PROTECTING THE KING.
YOUPI ASSUMED THE KING WAS STILL IN THE THRONE ROOM.
AH
AS A ROYAL GUARD, HIS FOCUS WAS ON KEEPING ENEMIES AWAY FROM THE KING.
THEREFORE, HIS MAIN PRIORITY WAS KEEPING ENEMIES AWAY FROM THE THRONE ROOM.
AS DID ANY ESCAPING OR DYING ENEMIES. THEY DID NOT WARRANT CONCERN AT THE MOMENT.
SINCE HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW MANY ENEMIES THERE WERE, THE NATURE OF HIS OPPONENT'S ABILITY TOOK SECOND PRIORITY.


GIVEN THEIR POSITIONS, IT WAS CLEAR YOUPI HAD SEEN SHOOT WHEN HE PASSED BY.
SHOOT WAS ALIVE.
...WORTH FINISHING OFF...
TO HIM, WE'RE NOT EVEN...
AFTER HAVING FOUGHT HIM WITH ALL THEY HAD, THE PAIR HAD NEVER FELT SO INSULTED.
YOUPI DIDN'T CARE WHETHER SHOOT LIVED OR DIED.
...NOTHING MORE THAN GNATS TO HIM ?!!
ARE SHOOT AND I...

WHEN THOSE GNATS MAKE YOU GO BANKRUPT IN ABOUT 10 MINUTES...!!!

FINE THEN... YOU'RE GONNA REGRET IT LATER!

MOREL USED HIS "*SMOKY JAIL*" ON THE THRONE ROOM...

...WHICH MEANS HE AND POUF ARE IN THERE ALONE! THE KING ISN'T IN THE THRONE ROOM!!

HEY!!

ARE YOU THERE ?!

GO DEFEND THE EMPTY ROOM!!

YOU MORON!

HEH HEH.

BY THE TIME KNUCKLE REALIZED HIS ERROR...

...HE HAD ALREADY MADE ANOTHER ONE.

DAMN... IT...

...AND WATCH FROM A SAFE DISTANCE !!

I'LL TAKE SHOOT ...

WE KNEW DEATH WAS A POSSIBILITY GOING IN!!

SHOOT MUST'VE BEEN PREPARED TO DIE AT THAT MOMENT...

YOUPI'S EYES HAD MET WITH SHOOT'S ...!

...KNUCKLE FELT THE MOST FRUSTRATING ANGER OF HIS LIFE ALL OF THE SUDDEN.

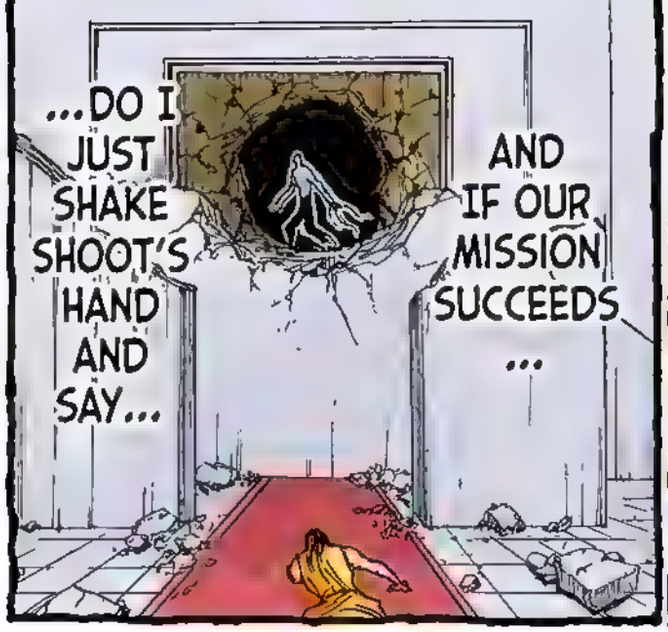
CONTRARY TO HIS MORE CALM REASON FOR EARLIER...

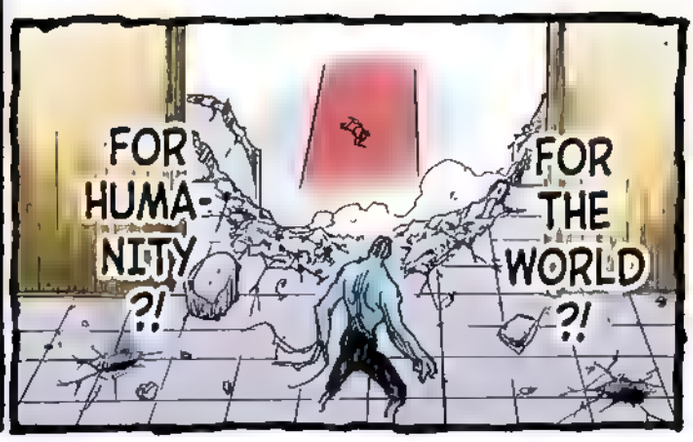
...KNUCKLE REALIZED HIS NEW ERROR.

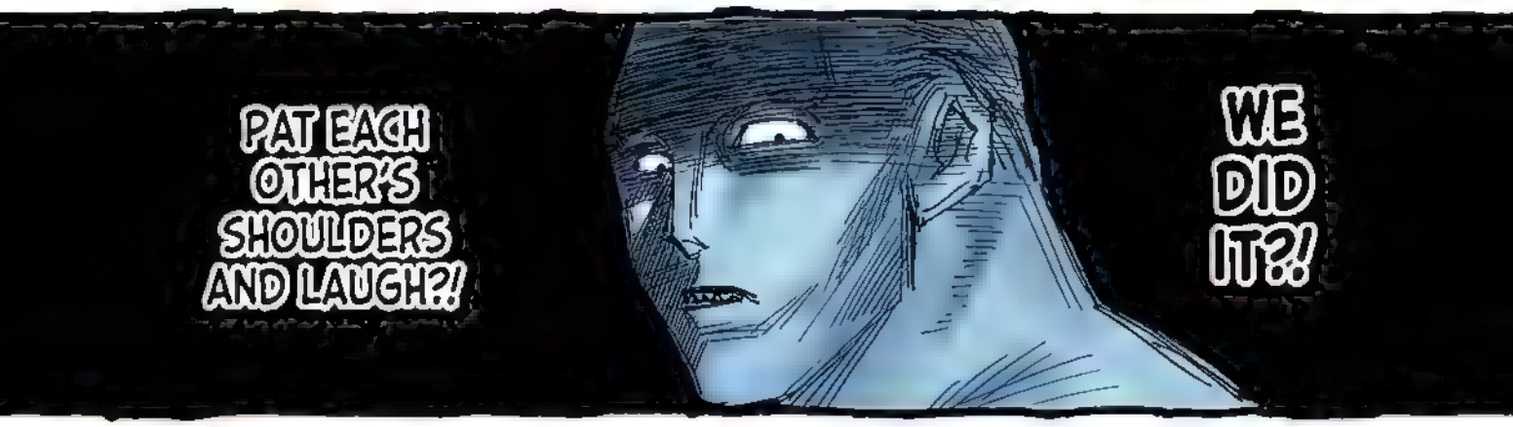
IGNORED SHOOT!!

BUT HE...

WHEN KNUCKLE IMAGINED THE EXPRESSION ON YOUPI'S FACE AND WENT UP TO THE 3RD FLOOR...







...MY FRIEND HAD BEEN INSULTED ...?!

ALL WHILE KNOWING ...

THAT ISN'T RIGHT ...
I CAN'T DO IT !!!!
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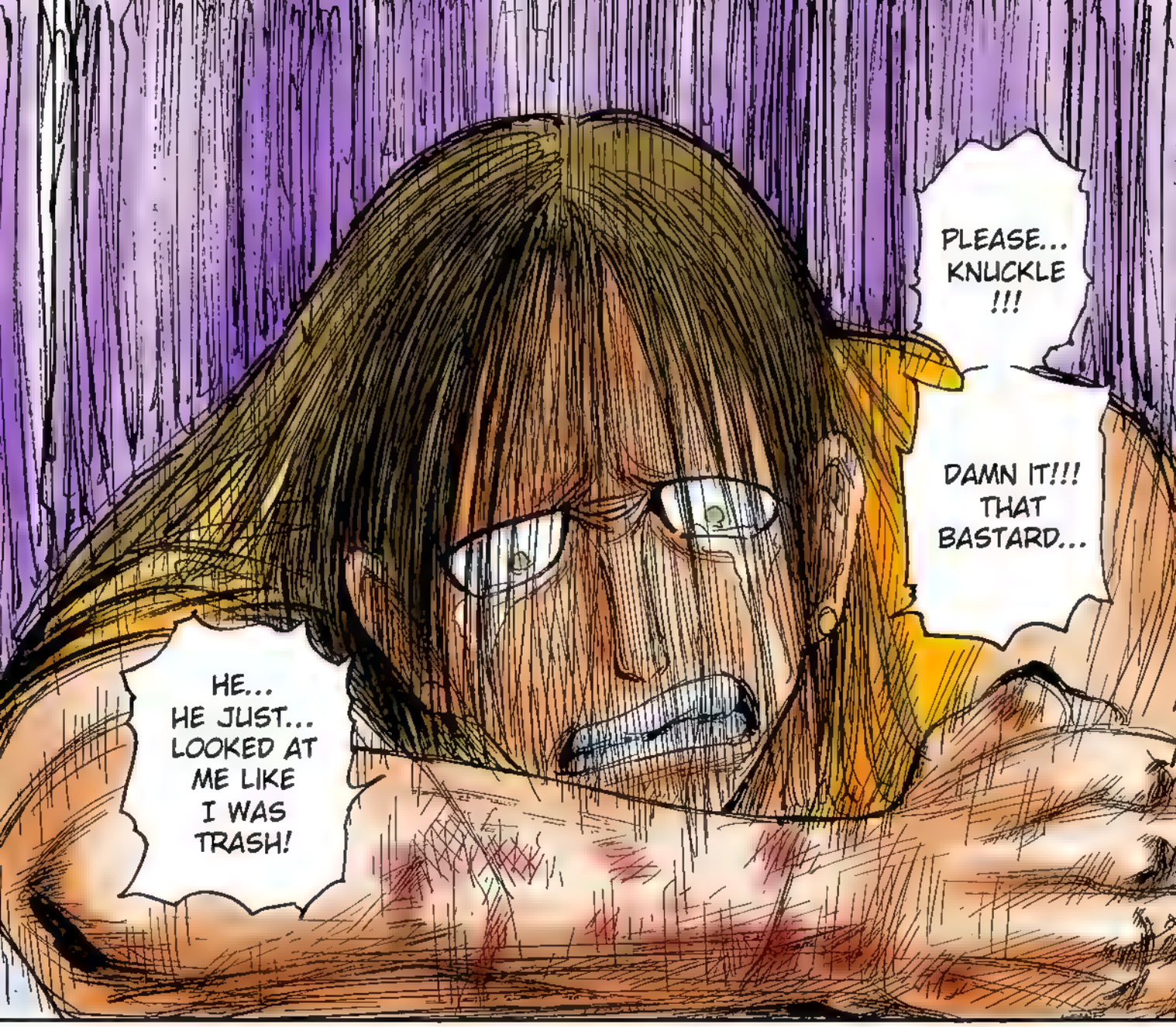
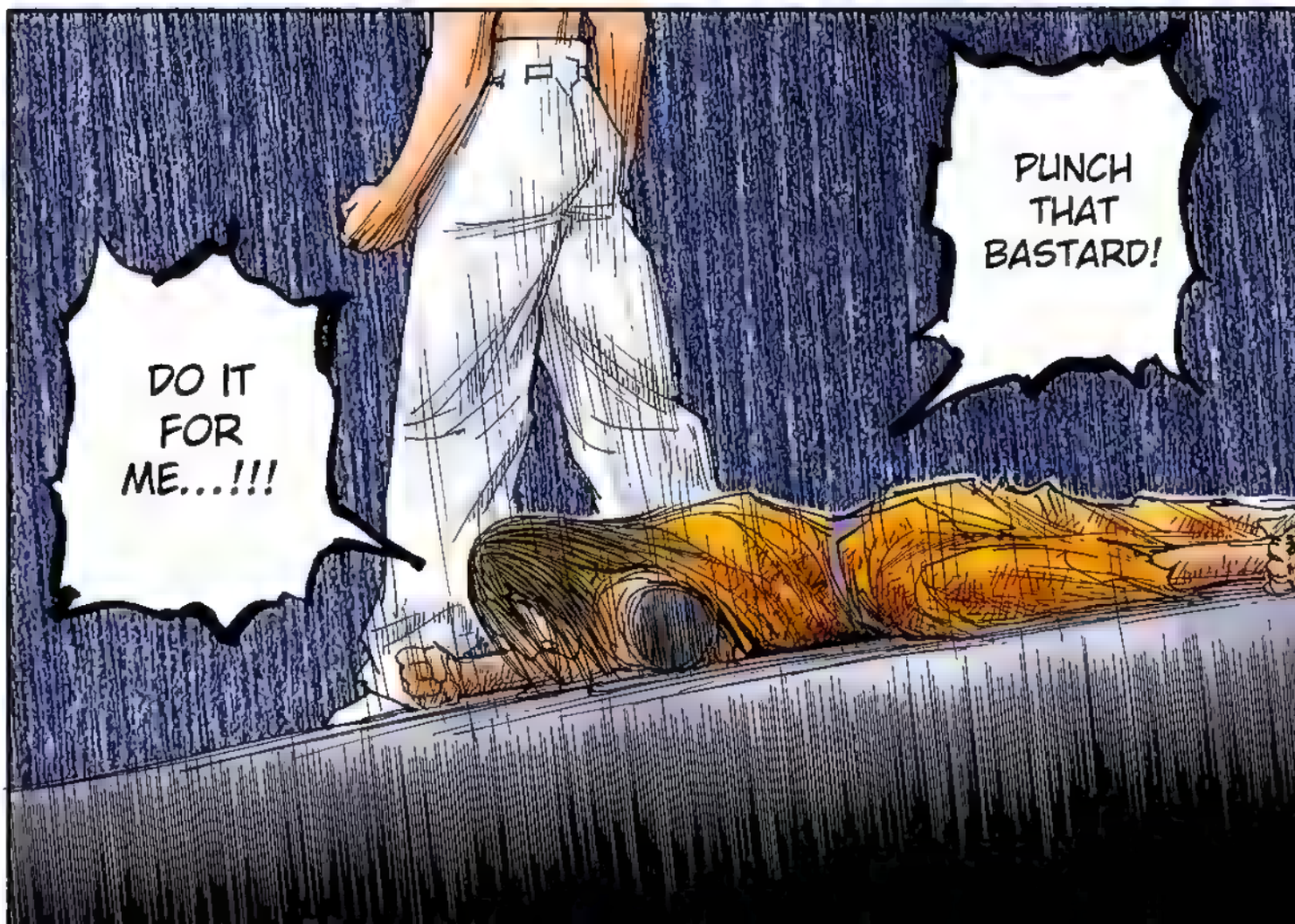
.....
HEY.
MAN... ARE YOU...
OH.
SORRY.
...IN THE FACE YET.
I HAVEN'T PUNCHED THAT BASTARD...
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO WAIT HERE A LITTLE BIT LONGER.
AND WHILE I'M APOLO-GIZING...
I'LL LAY ONE FOR YOU AS WELL!!
I SWEAR.. I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET THAT BASTARD!!
THAT'S MY...!!
IS HE CRAZY?! DON'T GO!! JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND BUY MORE TIME...!!
I KNOW MY JOB IS TO TRY AND STOP KNUCKLE...


PLEASE... KNUCKLE !!!
DAMN IT!!! THAT BASTARD...
HE... HE JUST... LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS TRASH!


PUNCH THAT BASTARD!
DO IT FOR ME...!!!

I GOT IT!!

YEAH!

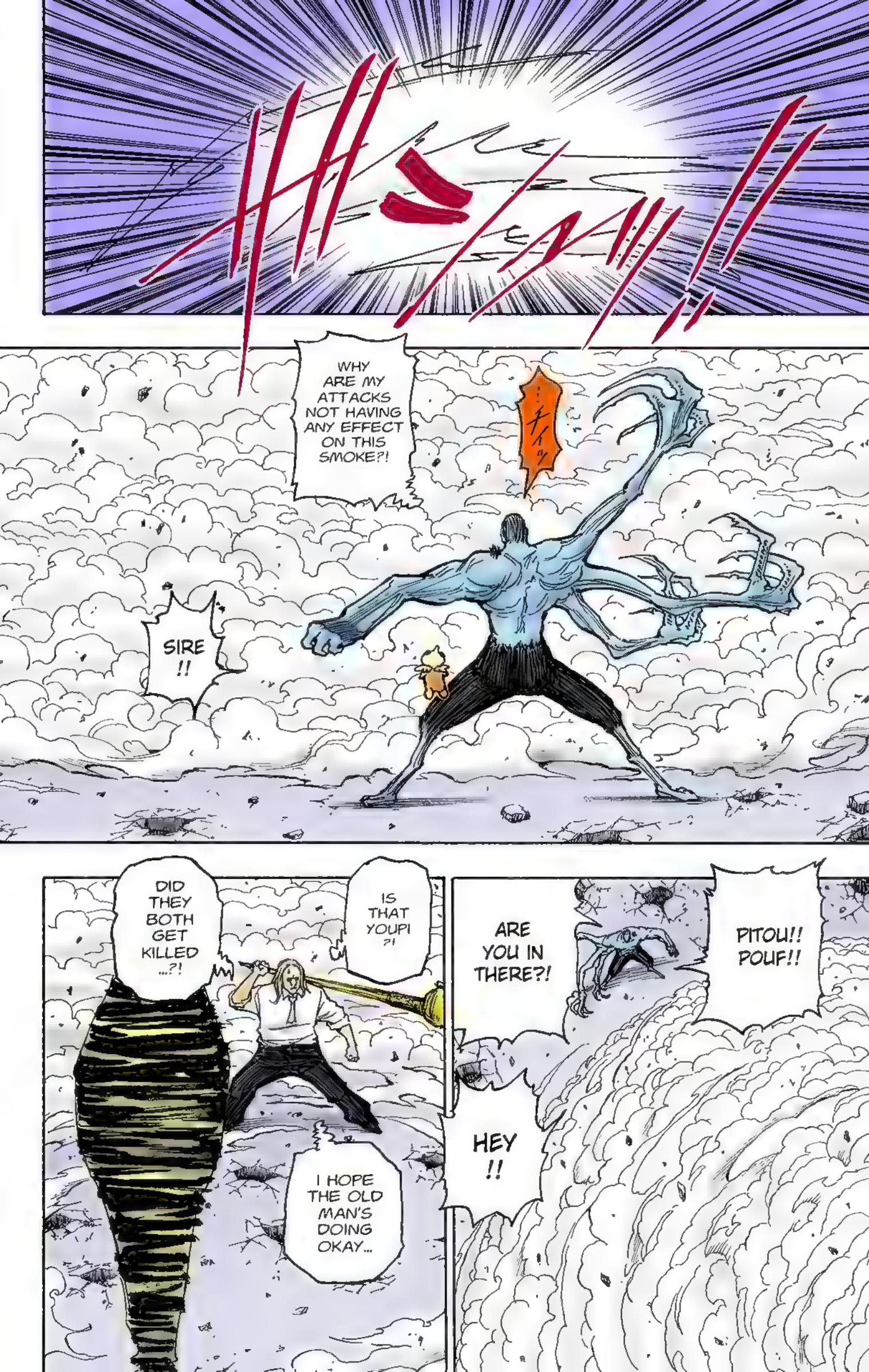
BUT WE'RE BOTH IDIOTS!

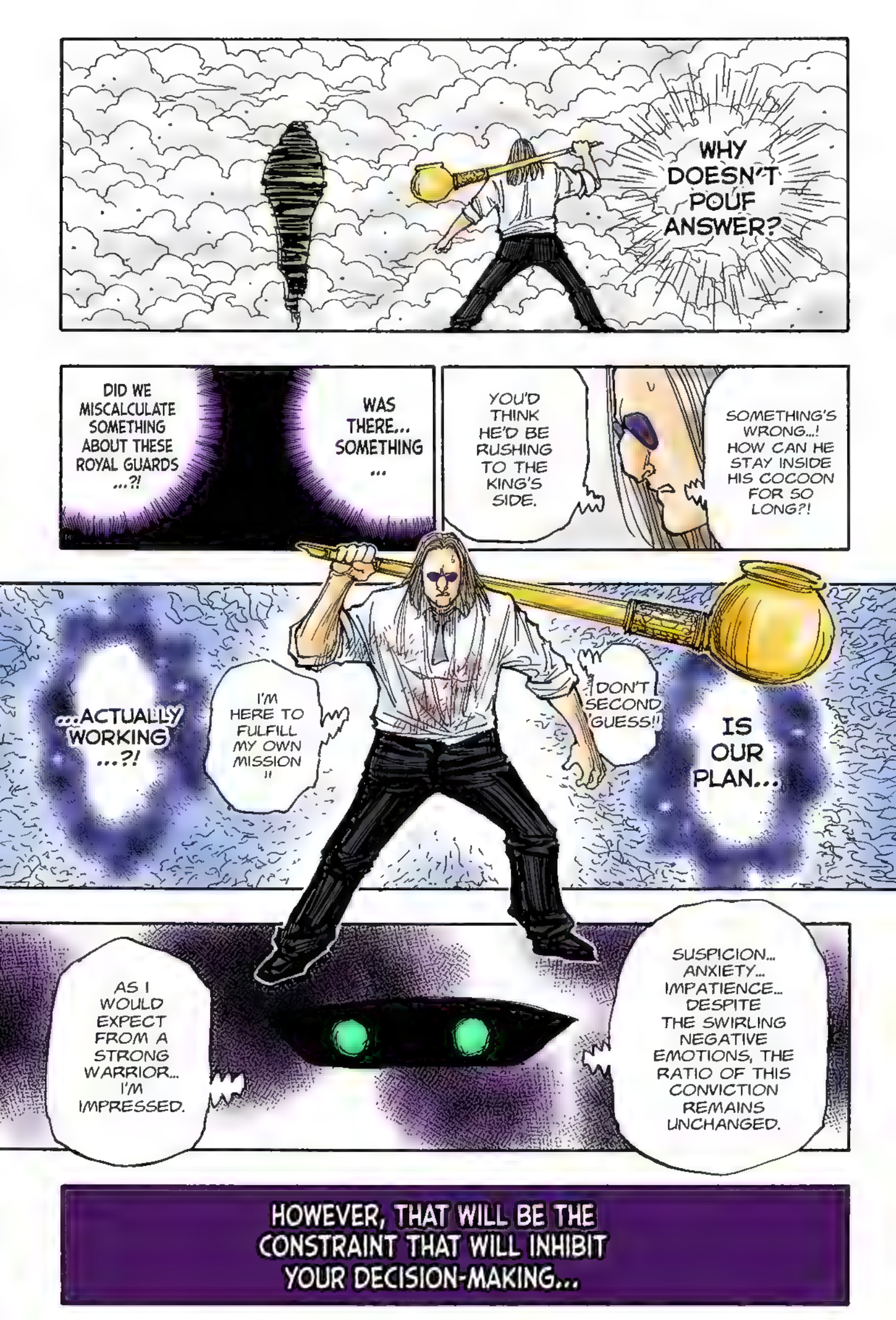
SORRY, MASTER!!

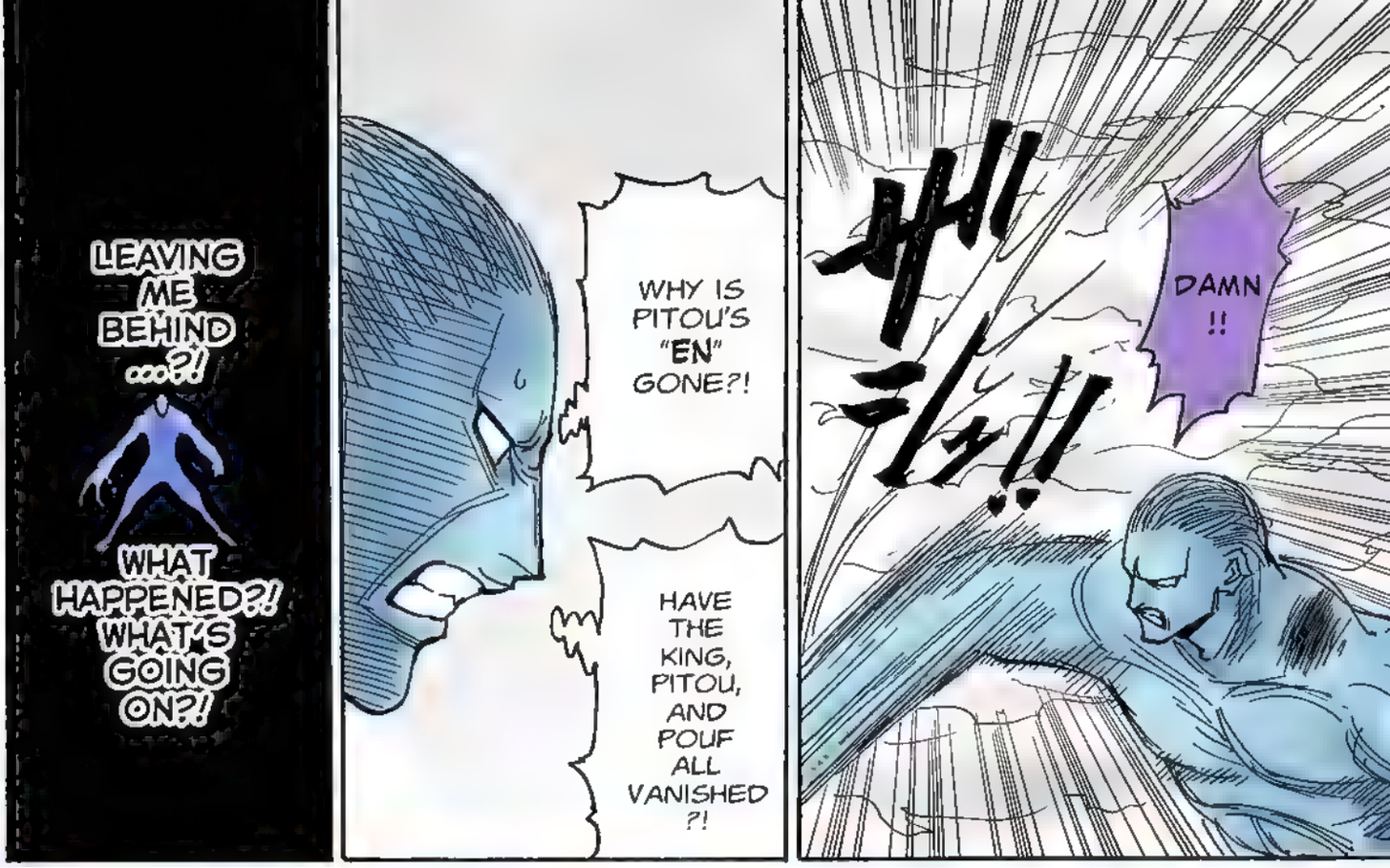
A NEW ERROR.

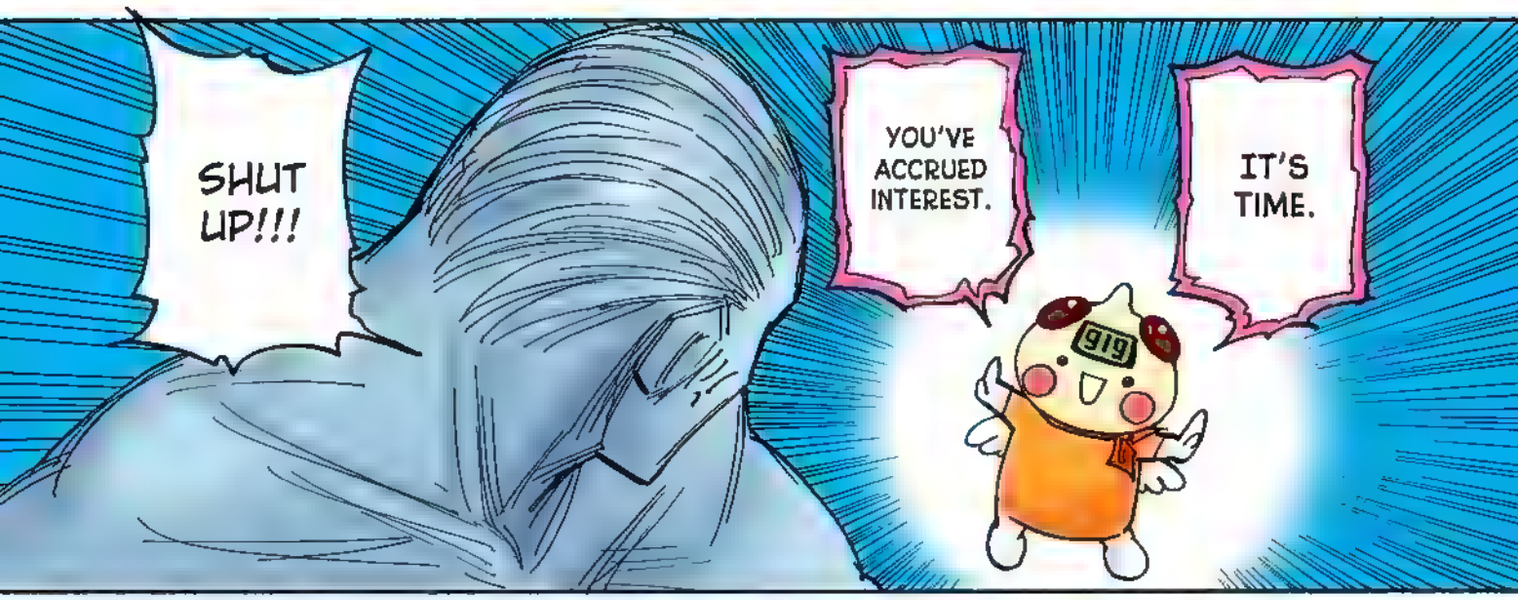
SOME THINGS ARE JUST MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE WORLD!!

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOMETHING IMPORTANT.


WHY ARE MY ATTACKS NOT HAVING ANY EFFECT ON THIS SMOKE?!
SIRE !!
DID THEY BOTH GET KILLED ...?!
IS THAT YOUPI ?!
I HOPE THE OLD MAN'S DOING OKAY...
ARE YOU IN THERE?!
PITOU!! POUF!!
HEY !!


WHY DOESN'T POUF ANSWER?
DID WE MISCALCULATE SOMETHING ABOUT THESE ROYAL GUARDS ...?!
WAS THERE... SOMETHING ...
YOU'D THINK HE'D BE RUSHING TO THE KING'S SIDE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG...! HOW CAN HE STAY INSIDE HIS COCOON FOR SO LONG?!
...ACTUALLY WORKING ...?!
I'M HERE TO FULFILL MY OWN MISSION !!
DON'T SECOND GUESS!!
IS OUR PLAN...
AS I WOULD EXPECT FROM A STRONG WARRIOR... I'M IMPRESSED.
SUSPICION... ANXIETY... IMPATIENCE... DESPITE THE SWIRLING NEGATIVE EMOTIONS, THE RATIO OF THIS CONVICTION REMAINS UNCHANGED.
HOWEVER, THAT WILL BE THE CONSTRAINT THAT WILL INHIBIT YOUR DECISION-MAKING...


LEAVING ME BEHIND ...?!
WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHY IS PITOU'S "EN" GONE?!
HAVE THE KING, PITOU, AND POUF ALL VANISHED ?!
DAMN !!


SHUT UP!!!
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
IT'S TIME.
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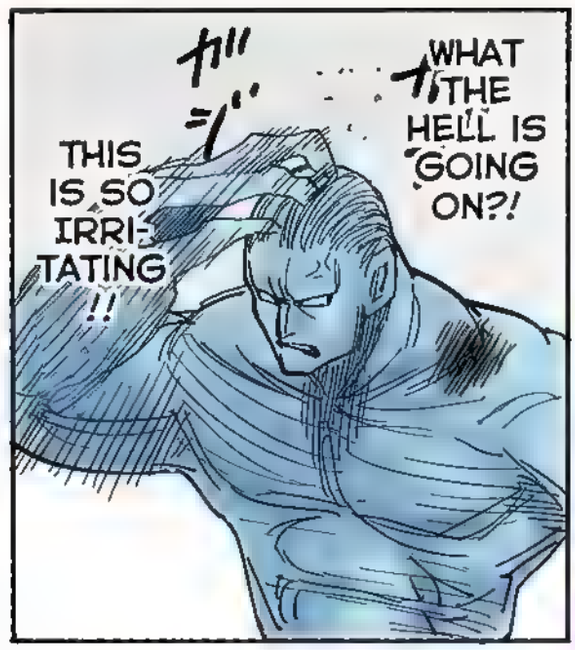
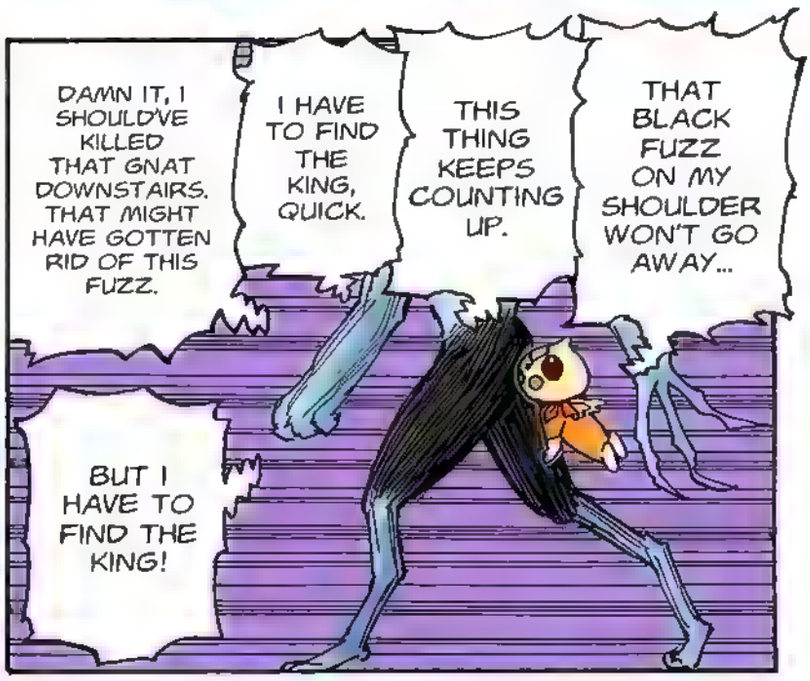
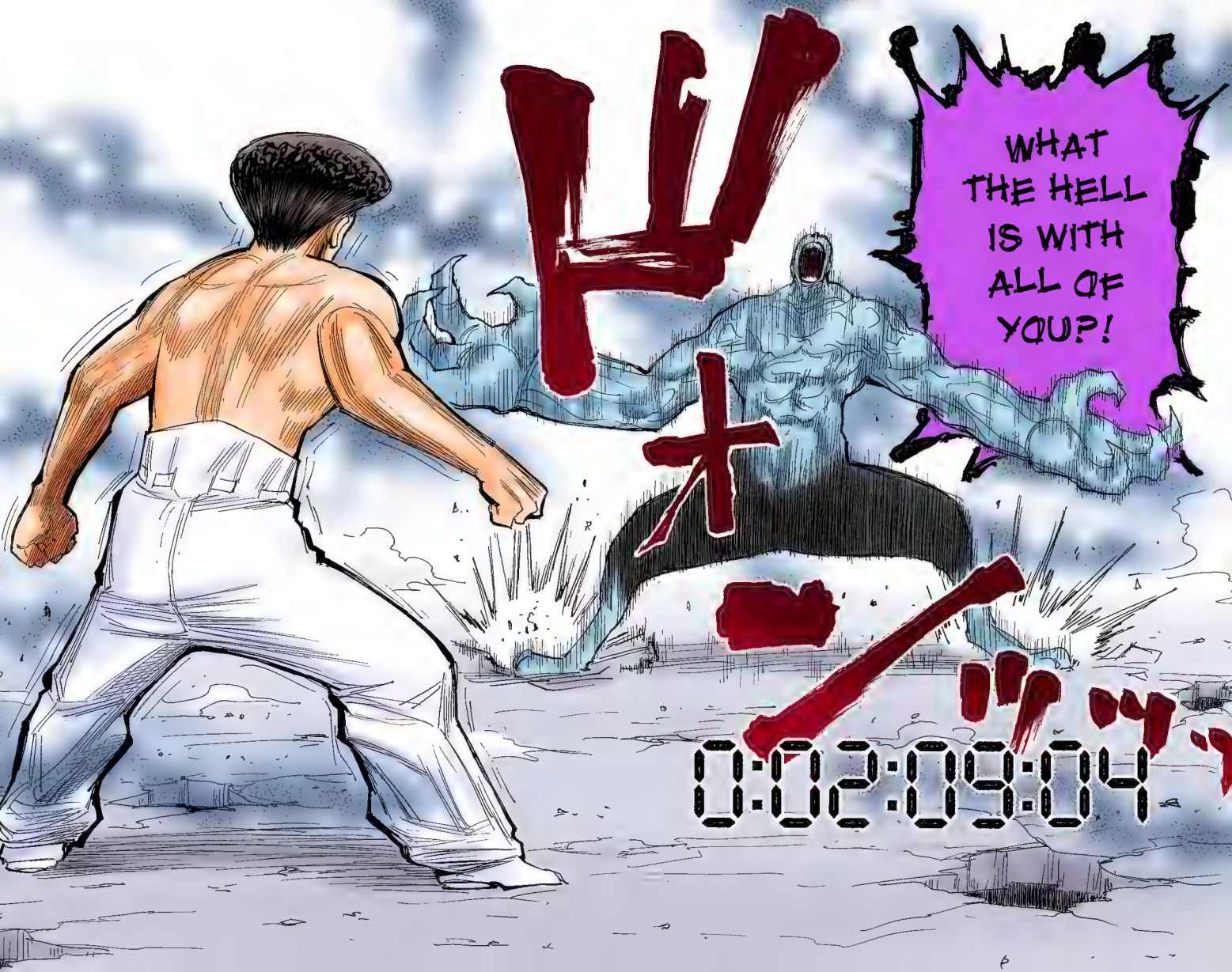

THIS IS SO IRRI-TATING !!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!


DAMN IT, I SHOULD'VE KILLED THAT GNAT DOWNSTAIRS. THAT MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THIS FUZZ.
I HAVE TO FIND THE KING, QUICK.
THIS THING KEEPS COUNTING UP.
THAT BLACK FUZZ ON MY SHOULDER WON'T GO AWAY...
BUT I HAVE TO FIND THE KING!

YO.


WHAT THE HELL IS WITH ALL OF YOU?!
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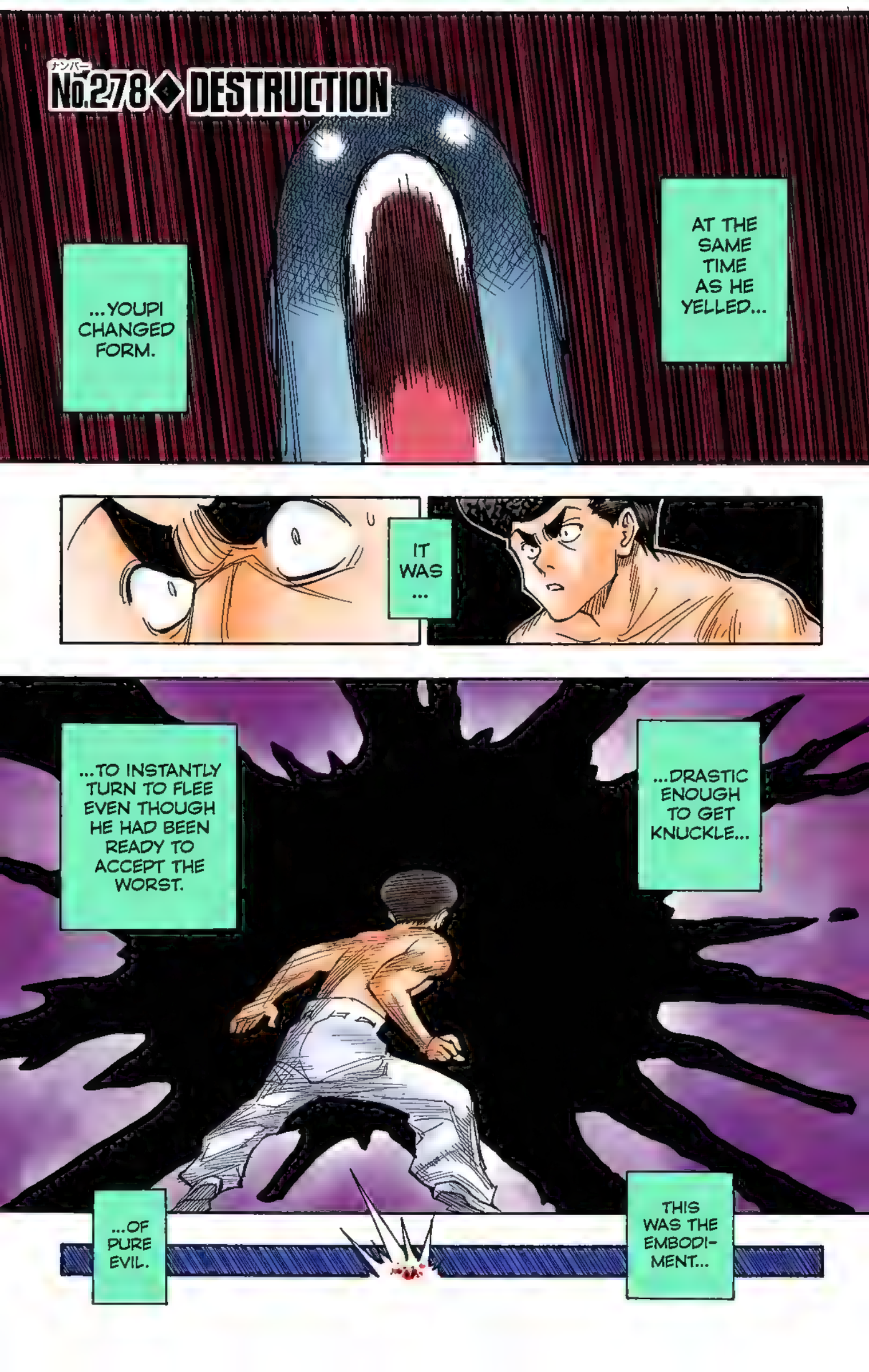
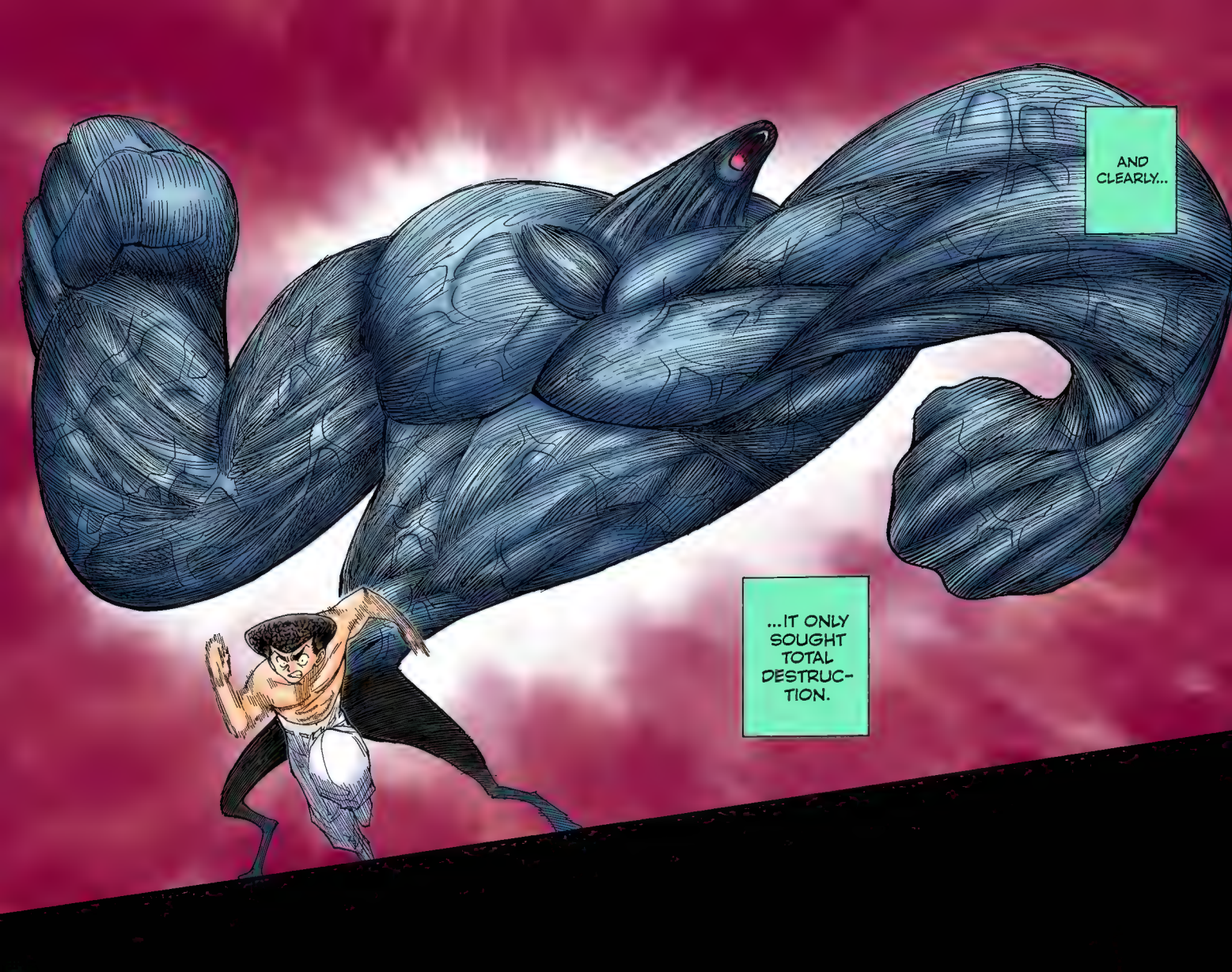

ナンバー
No.278 ◆ DESTRUCTION
...YOUPI CHANGED FORM.
AT THE SAME TIME AS HE YELLED...
IT WAS ...
...TO INSTANTLY TURN TO FLEE EVEN THOUGH HE HAD BEEN READY TO ACCEPT THE WORST.
...DRASTIC ENOUGH TO GET KNUCKLE...
...OF PURE EVIL.
THIS WAS THE EMBODI-MENT...


AND CLEARLY...
...IT ONLY SOUGHT TOTAL DESTRUC-TION.

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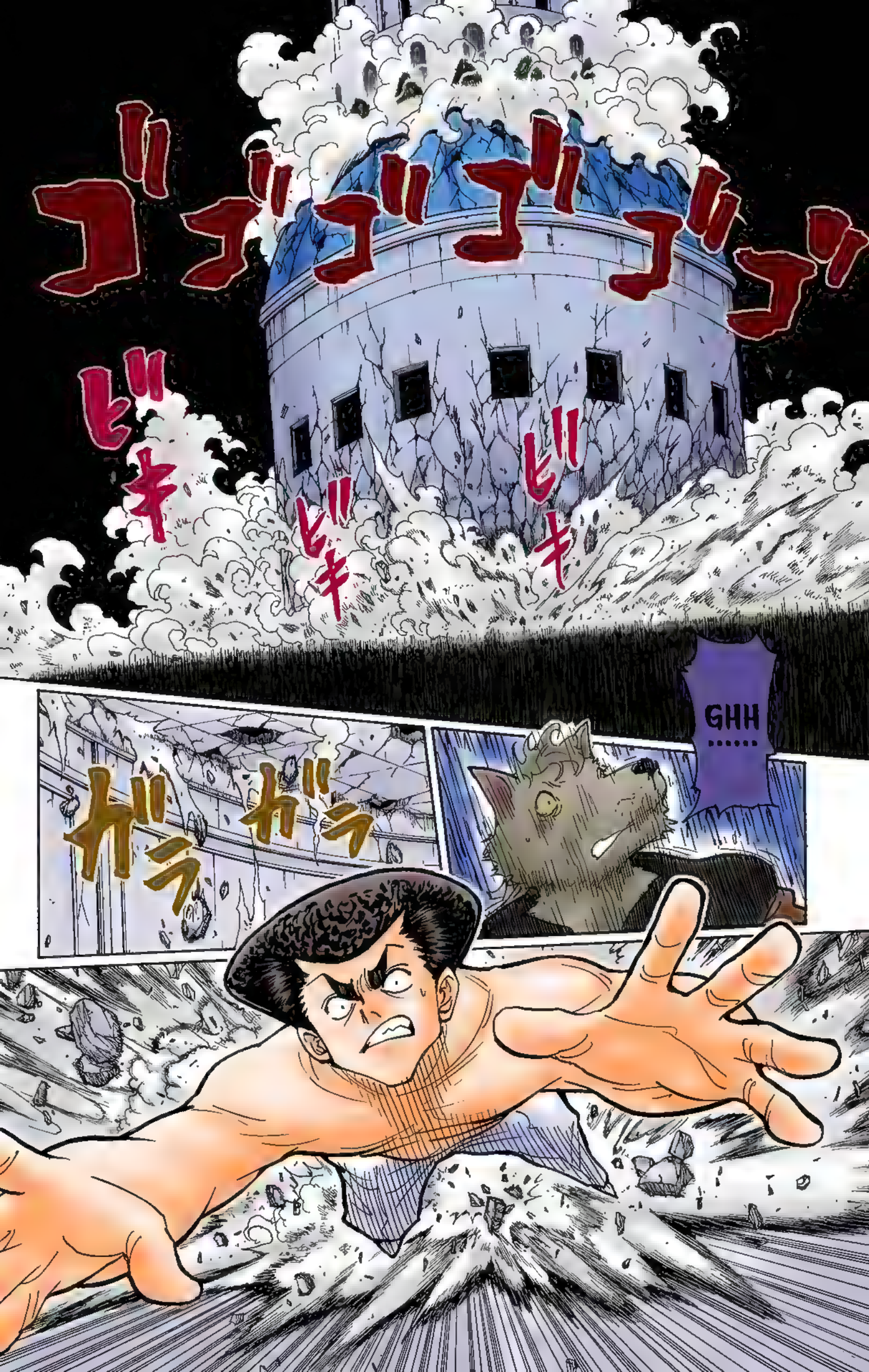
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GHH
……
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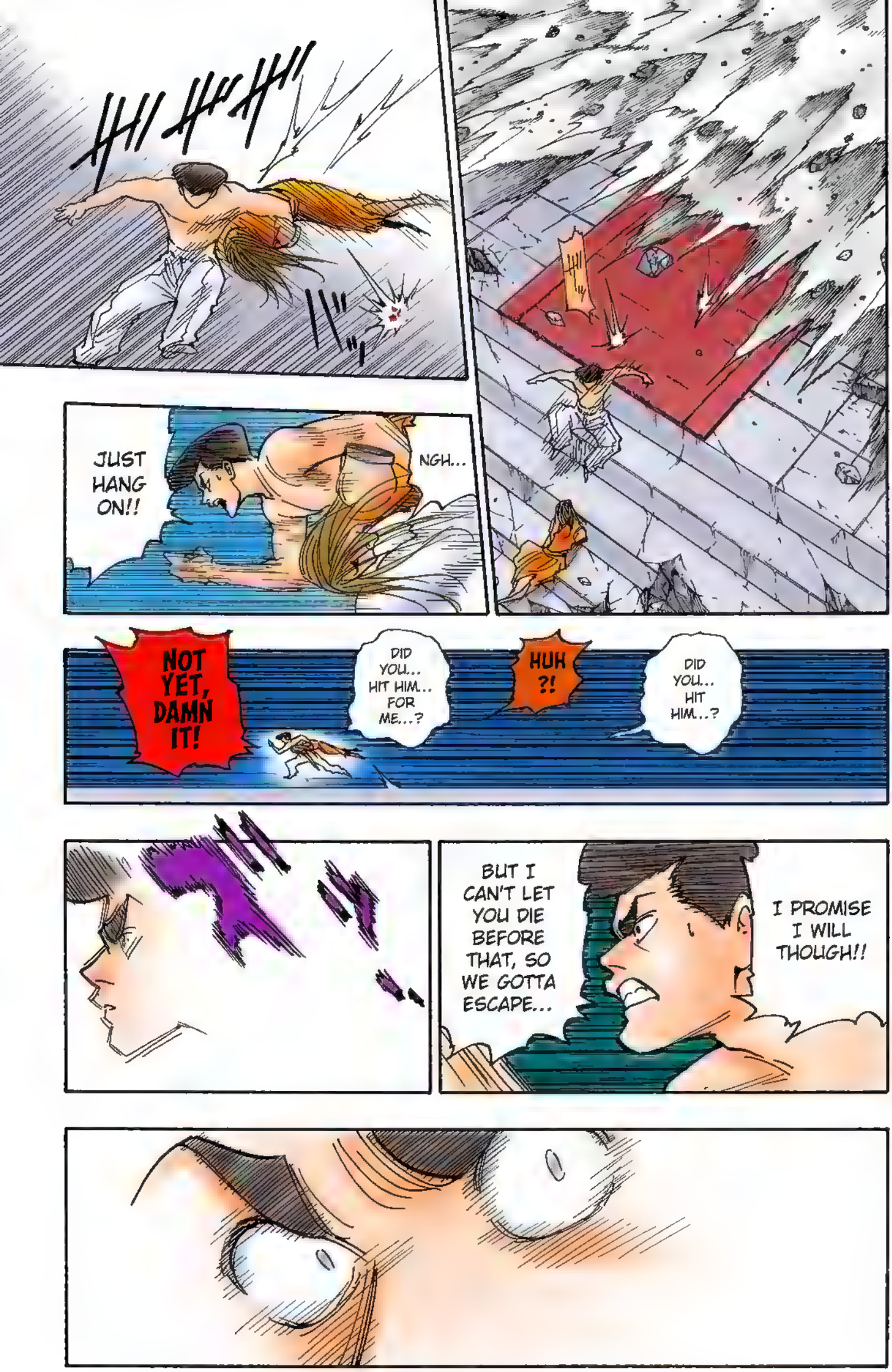
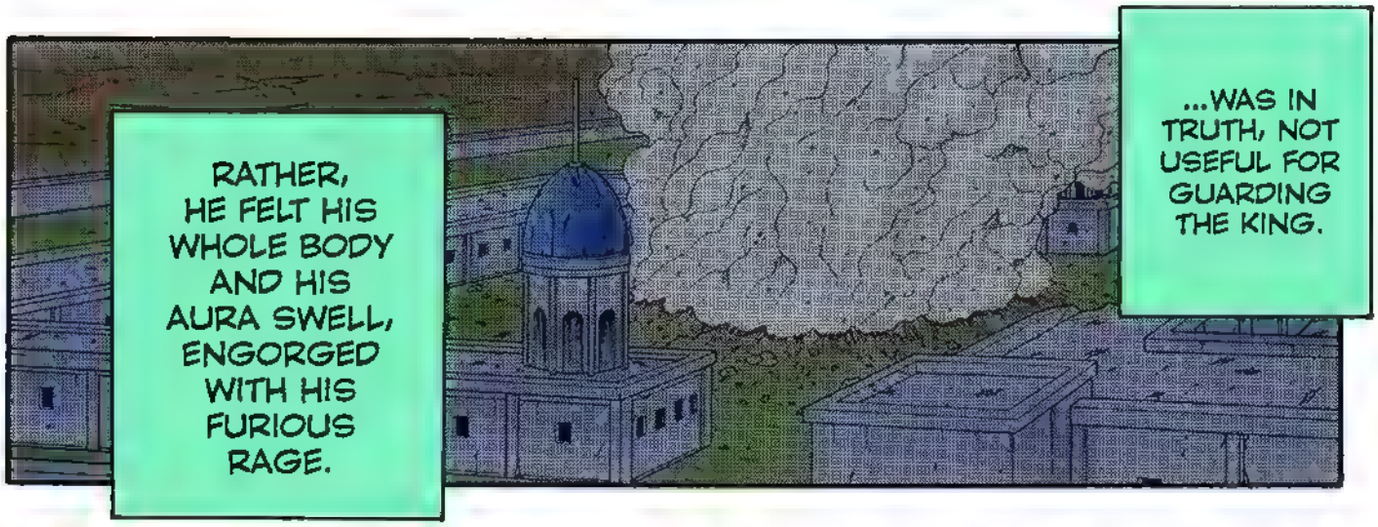
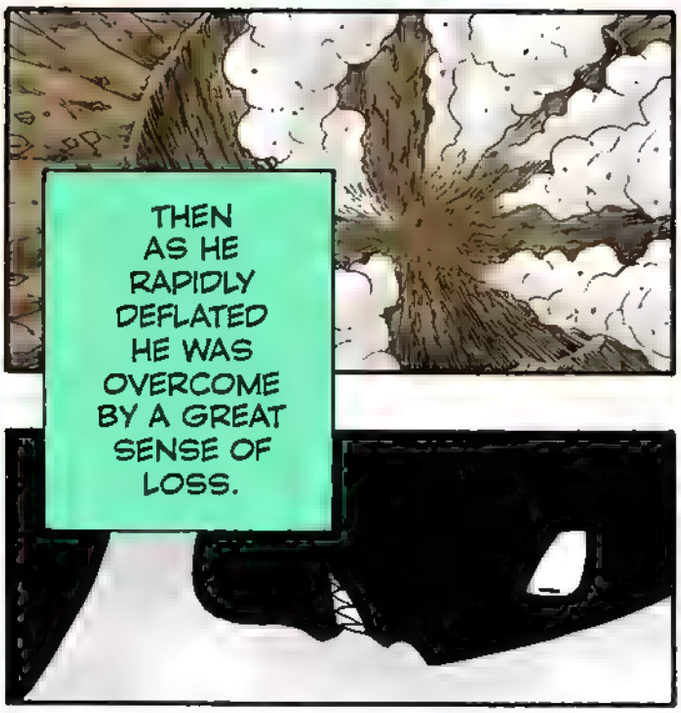
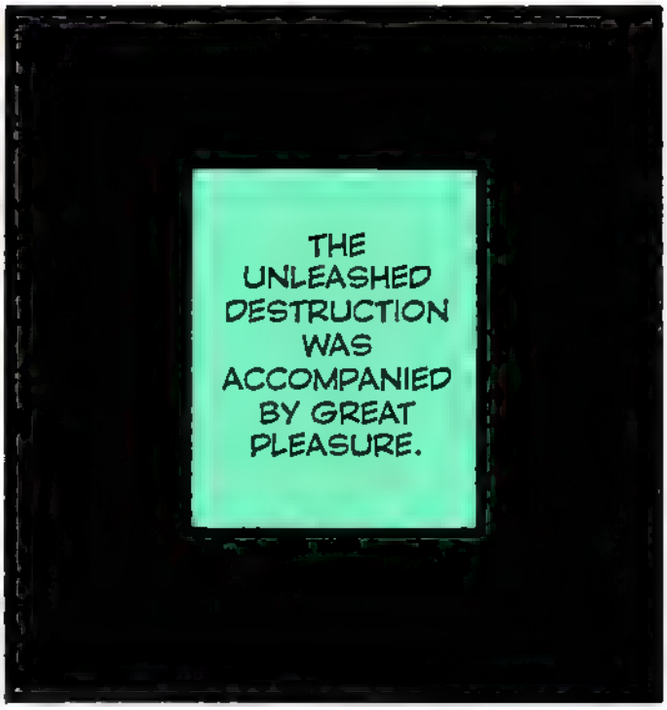

JUST HANG ON!!
NGH...
NOT YET, DAMN IT!
DID YOU... HIT HIM... FOR ME...?
HUH ?!
DID YOU... HIT HIM...?
BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DIE BEFORE THAT, SO WE GOTTA ESCAPE...
I PROMISE I WILL THOUGH!!

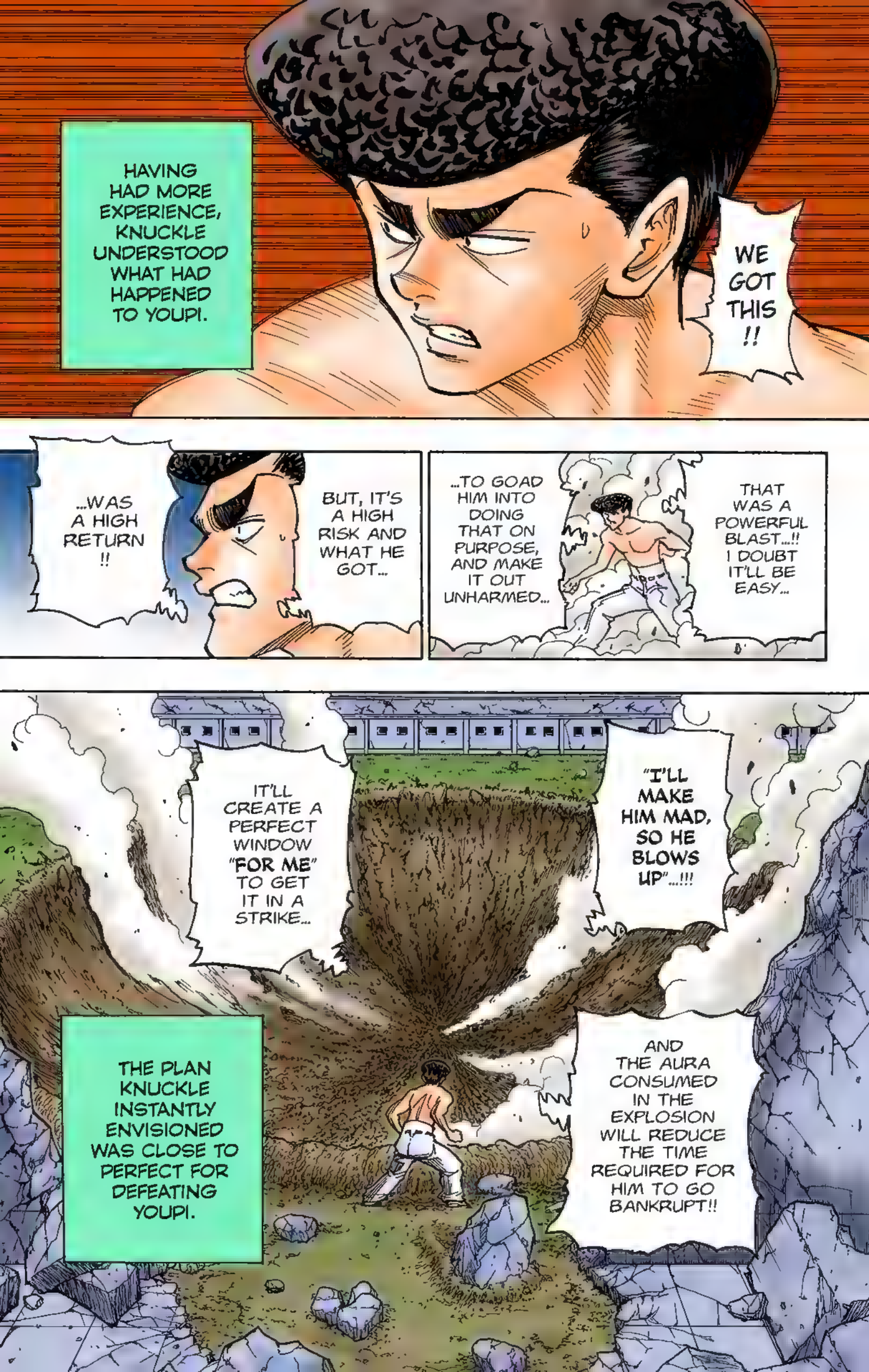
...BECAME AWARE BY BEING UNDER EXTREME MENTAL STRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE...
YOUP!
...
...THAT THE TRUE NATURE OF HIS ABILITY...

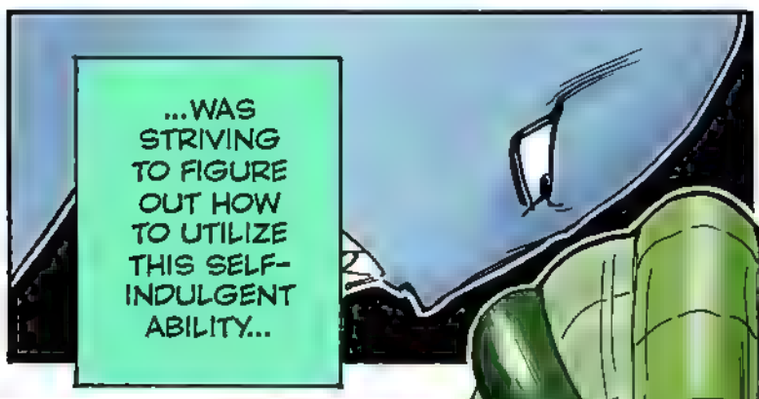

RATHER, HE FELT HIS WHOLE BODY AND HIS AURA SWELL, ENGORGED WITH HIS FURIOUS RAGE.
...WAS IN TRUTH, NOT USEFUL FOR GUARDING THE KING.

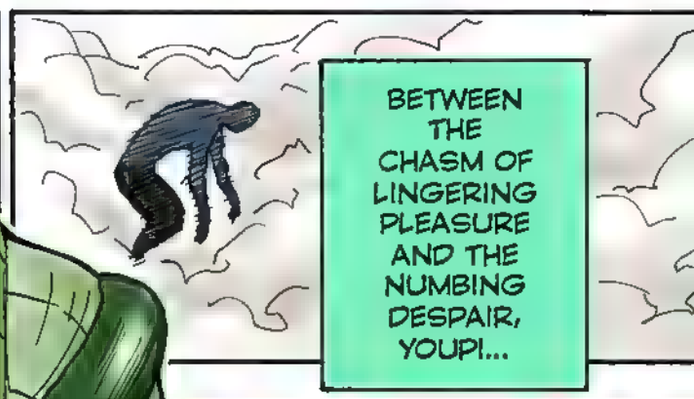

THEN AS HE RAPIDLY DEFLATED HE WAS OVERCOME BY A GREAT SENSE OF LOSS.

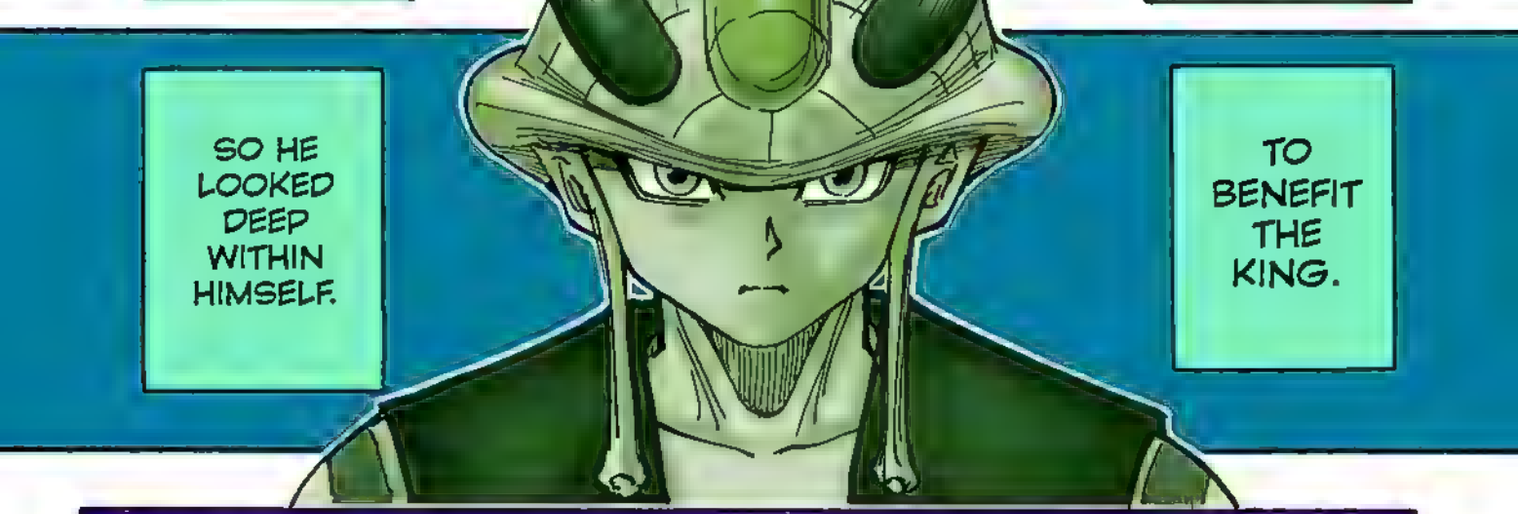

THE UNLEASHED DESTRUCTION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GREAT PLEASURE.

.....

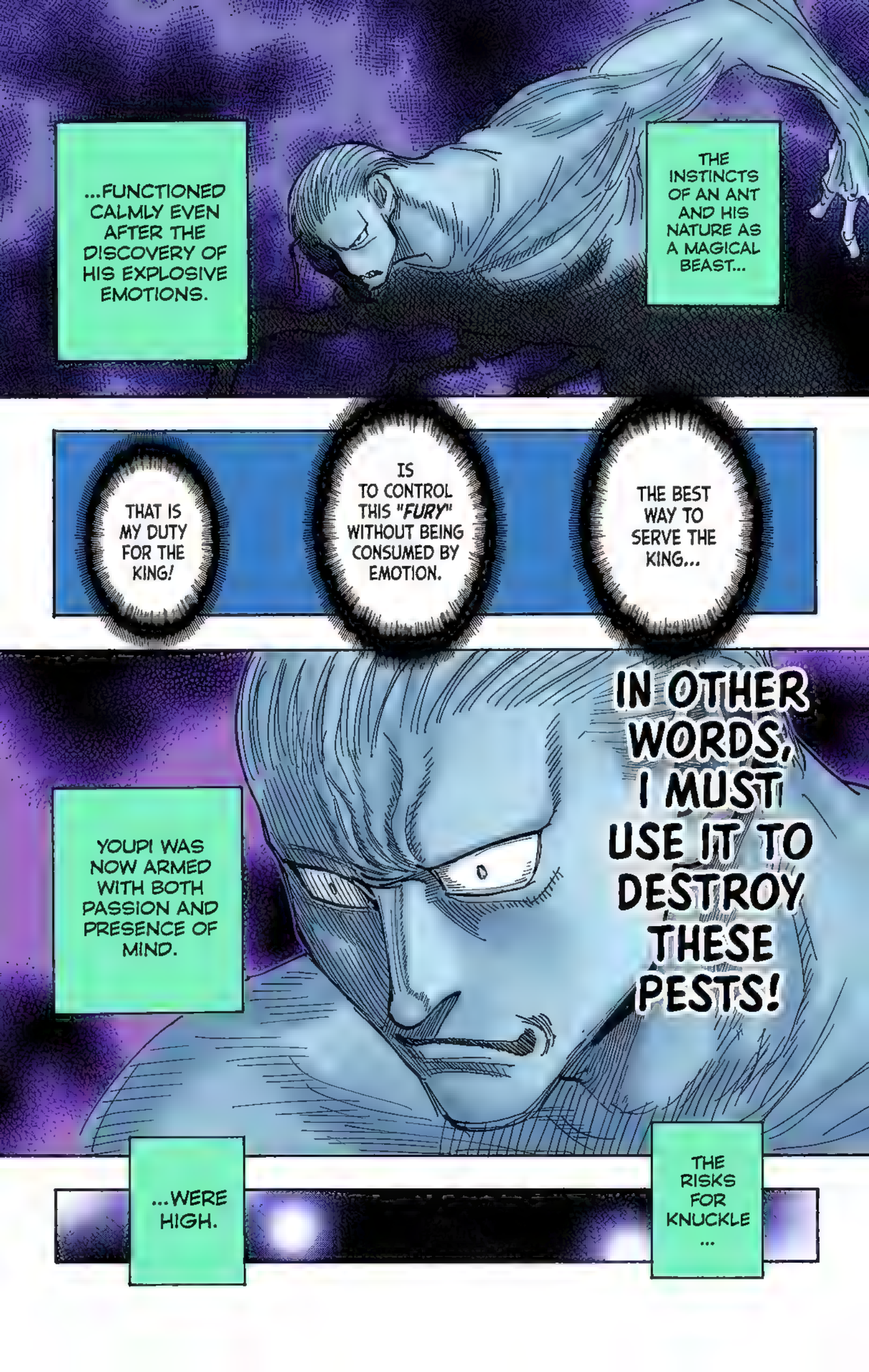

HAVING HAD MORE EXPERIENCE, KNUCKLE UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO YOUPI.
WE GOT THIS !!
...WAS A HIGH RETURN !!
BUT, IT'S A HIGH RISK AND WHAT HE GOT...
...TO GOAD HIM INTO DOING THAT ON PURPOSE, AND MAKE IT OUT UNHARMED...
THAT WAS A POWERFUL BLAST...!! I DOUBT IT'LL BE EASY...
IT'LL CREATE A PERFECT WINDOW "FOR ME" TO GET IT IN A STRIKE...
"I'LL MAKE HIM MAD, SO HE BLOWS UP"...!!!
THE PLAN KNUCKLE INSTANTLY ENVISIONED WAS CLOSE TO PERFECT FOR DEFEATING YOUPI.
AND THE AURA CONSUMED IN THE EXPLOSION WILL REDUCE THE TIME REQUIRED FOR HIM TO GO BANKRUPT!!

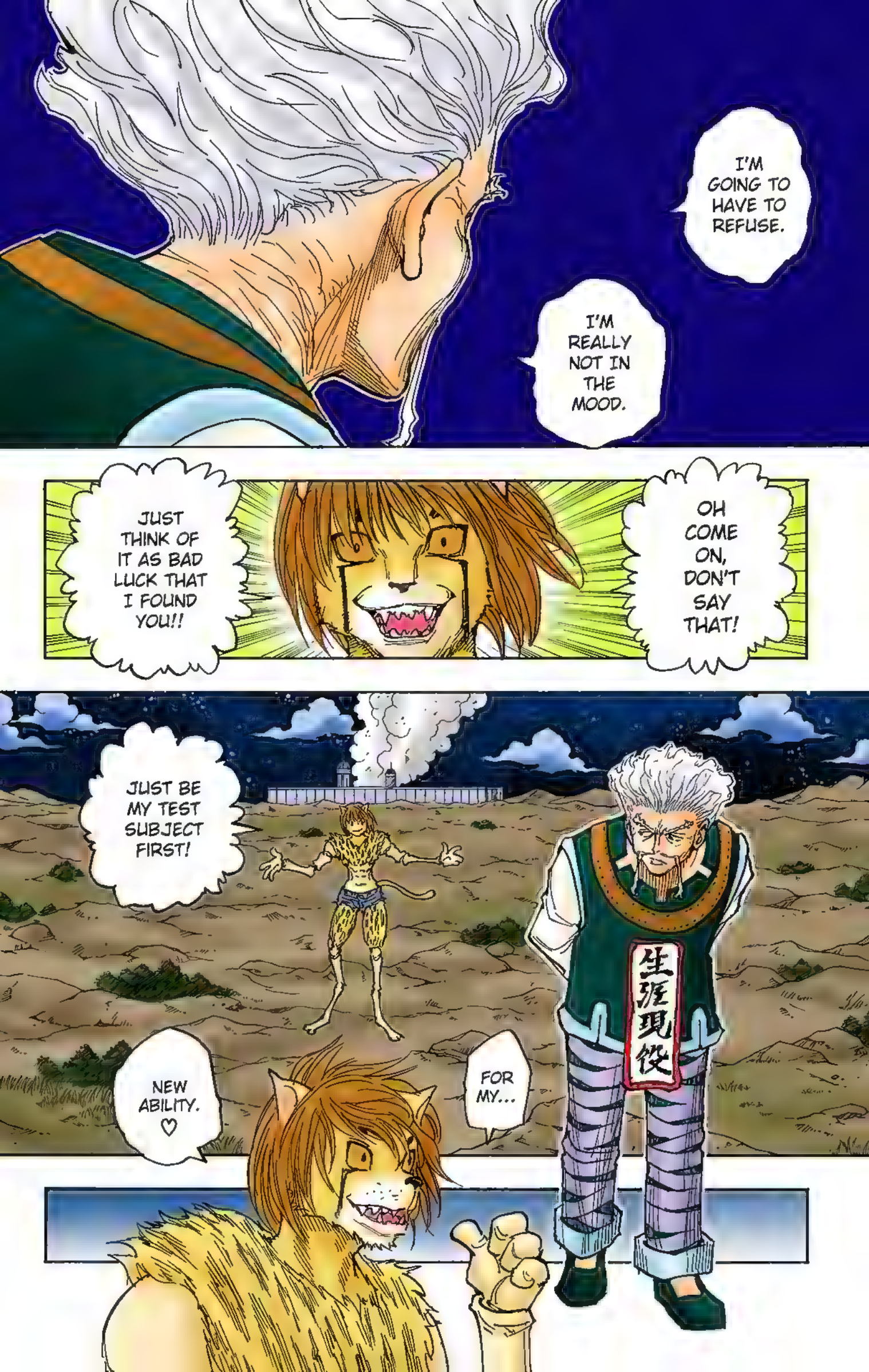


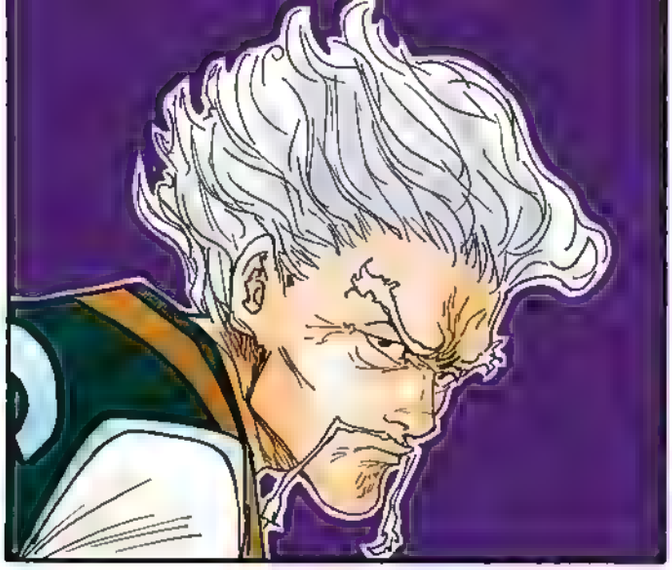




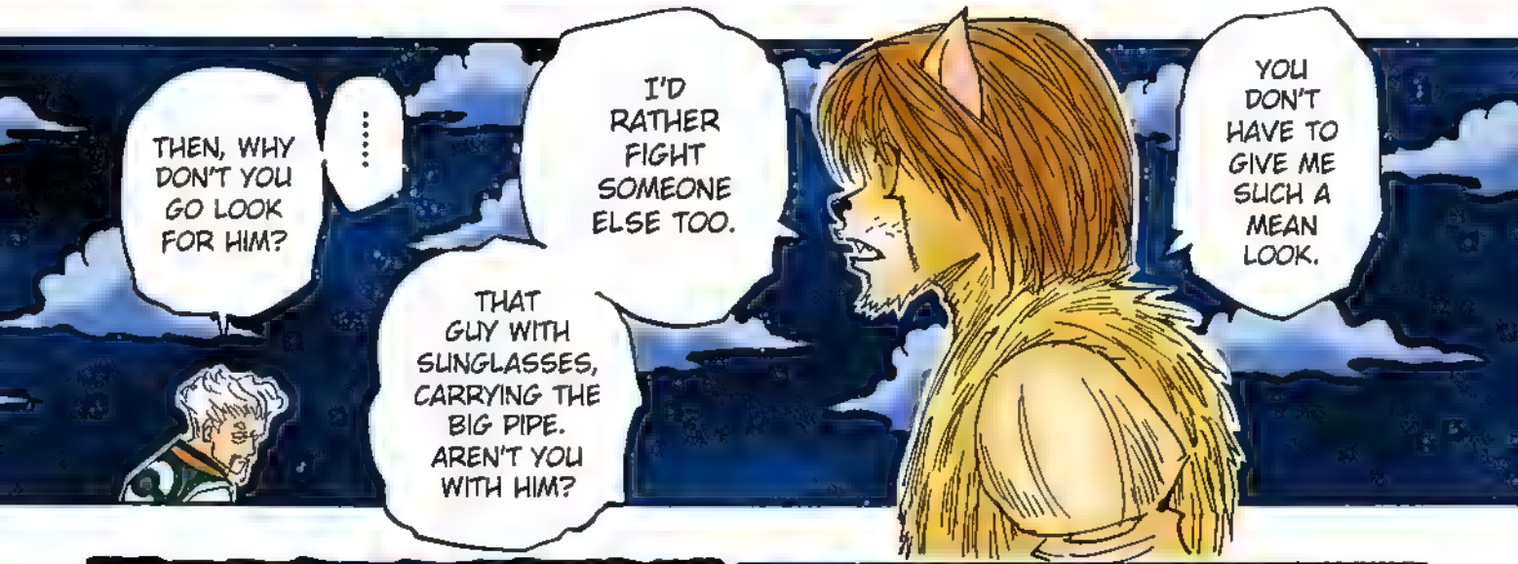
(*SELFLESSNESS)

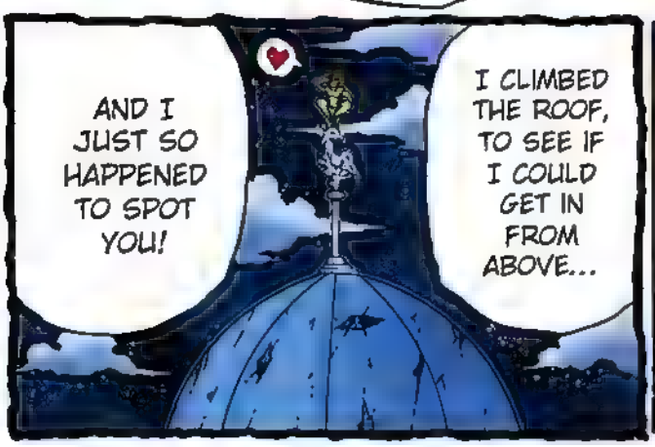

...FUNCTIONED CALMLY EVEN AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF HIS EXPLOSIVE EMOTIONS.
THE INSTINCTS OF AN ANT AND HIS NATURE AS A MAGICAL BEAST...
THAT IS MY DUTY FOR THE KING!
IS TO CONTROL THIS "FURY" WITHOUT BEING CONSUMED BY EMOTION.
THE BEST WAY TO SERVE THE KING...
IN OTHER WORDS, I MUST USE IT TO DESTROY THESE PESTS!
YOUPI WAS NOW ARMED WITH BOTH PASSION AND PRESENCE OF MIND.
...WERE HIGH.
THE RISKS FOR KNUCKLE ...

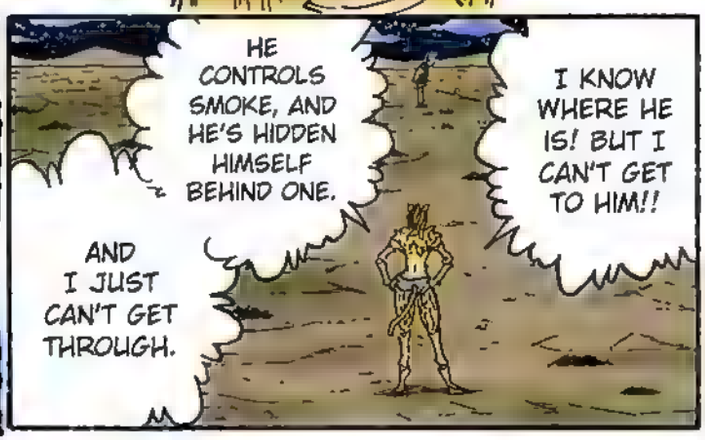

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO REFUSE.
I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD.
JUST THINK OF IT AS BAD LUCK THAT I FOUND YOU!!
OH COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT!
JUST BE MY TEST SUBJECT FIRST!
NEW ABILITY. ♡
FOR MY...
生涯現役

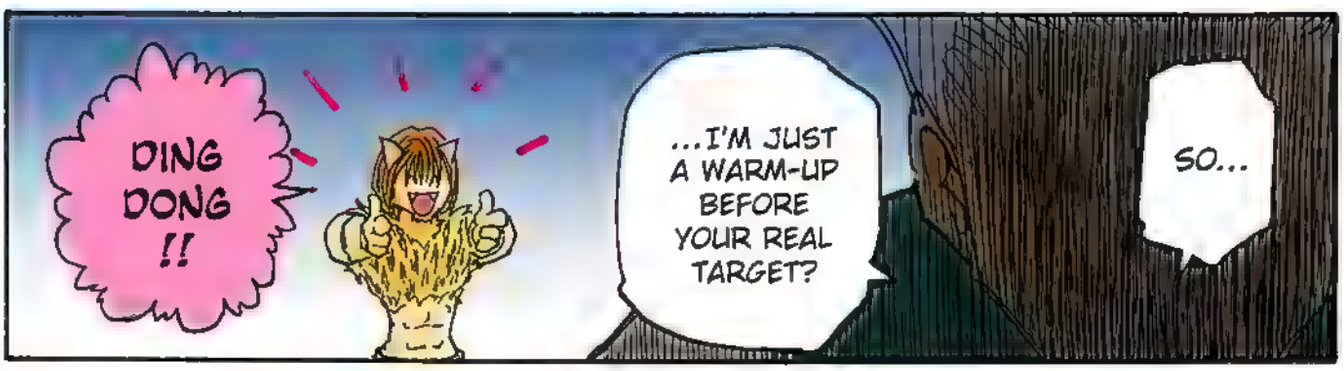


SIGH...

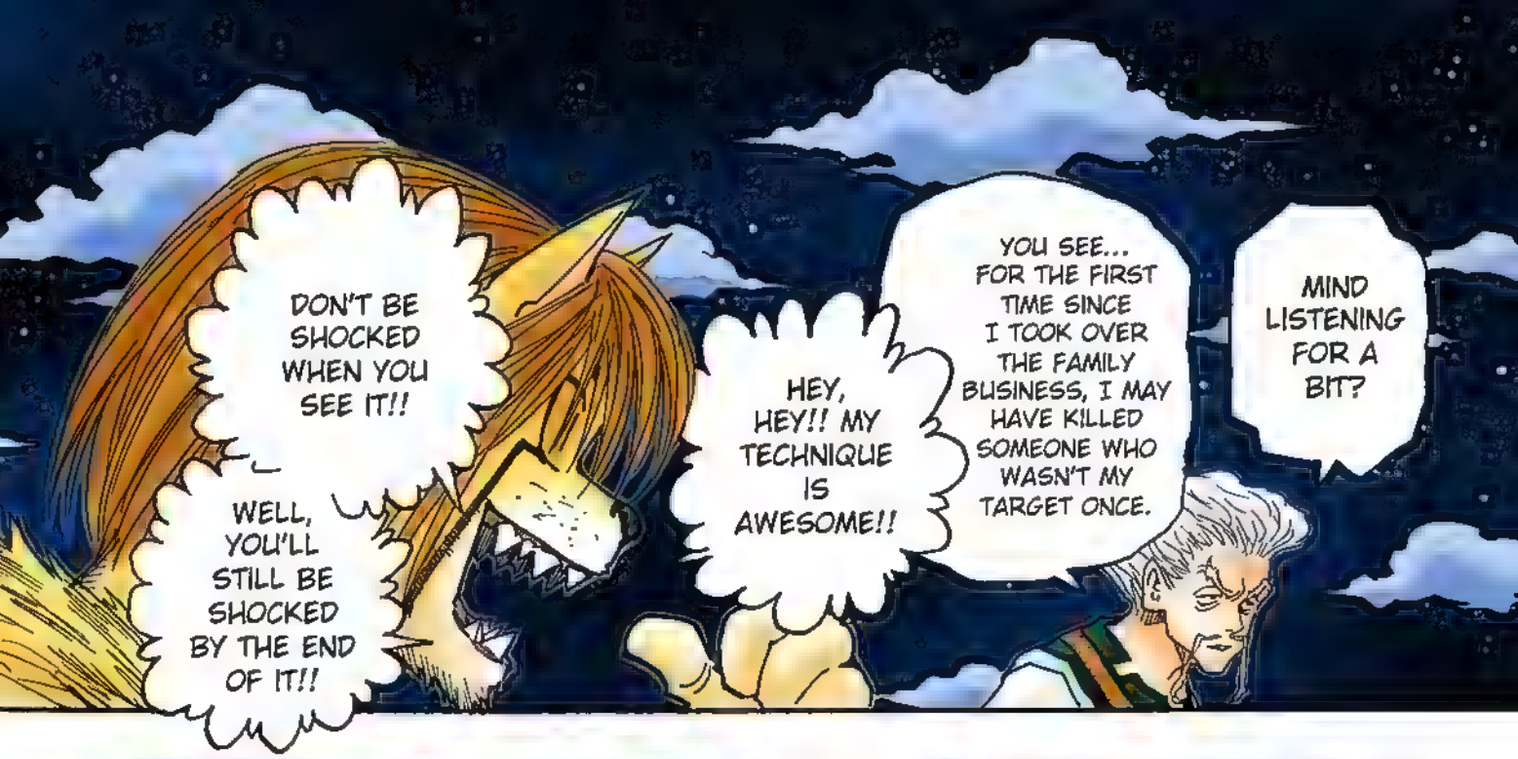

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME SUCH A MEAN LOOK.
I'D RATHER FIGHT SOMEONE ELSE TOO.
THAT GUY WITH SUNGLASSES, CARRYING THE BIG PIPE. AREN'T YOU WITH HIM?
.....
THEN, WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOK FOR HIM?

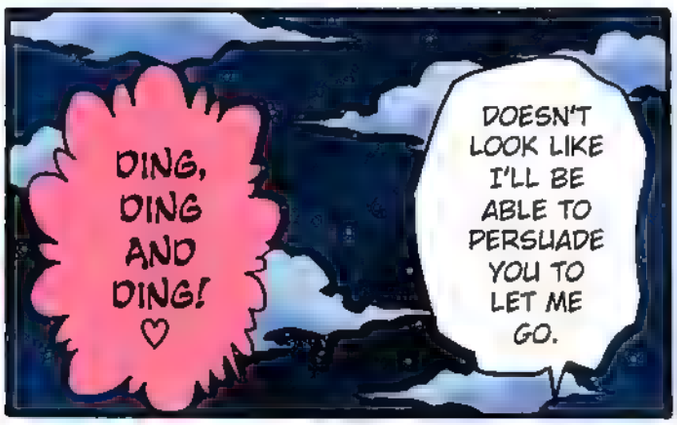

I CLIMBED THE ROOF, TO SEE IF I COULD GET IN FROM ABOVE...
AND I JUST SO HAPPENED TO SPOT YOU!

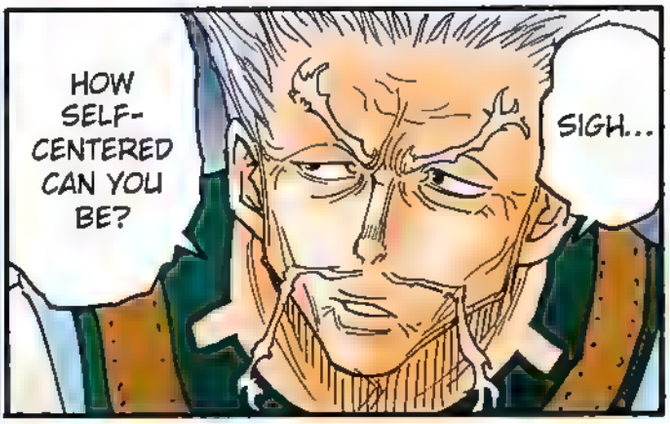

I KNOW WHERE HE IS! BUT I CAN'T GET TO HIM!!
HE CONTROLS SMOKE, AND HE'S HIDDEN HIMSELF BEHIND ONE.
AND I JUST CAN'T GET THROUGH.

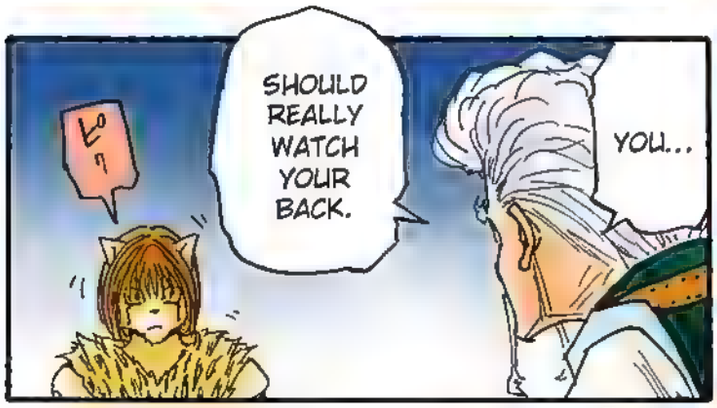

SO...
...I'M JUST A WARM-UP BEFORE YOUR REAL TARGET?
DING DONG !!

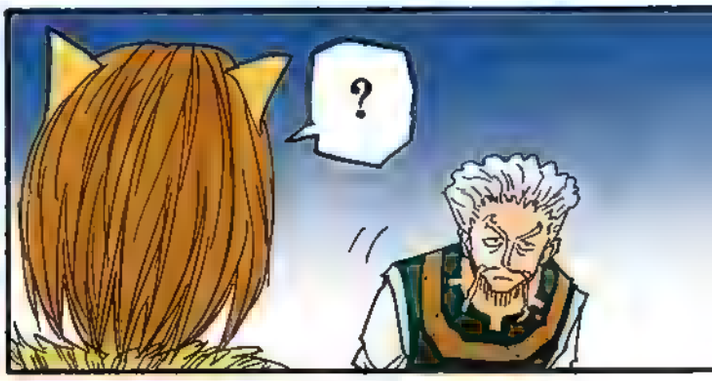
.....
I'M TIRED...


DON'T BE SHOCKED WHEN YOU SEE IT!!
WELL, YOU'LL STILL BE SHOCKED BY THE END OF IT!!
HEY, HEY!! MY TECHNIQUE IS AWESOME!!
YOU SEE... FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I TOOK OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS, I MAY HAVE KILLED SOMEONE WHO WASN'T MY TARGET ONCE.
MIND LISTENING FOR A BIT?


DING, DING AND DING! ♡
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE YOU TO LET ME GO.


HOW SELF-CENTERED CAN YOU BE?
SIGH...


ピッ
SHOULD REALLY WATCH YOUR BACK.
YOU...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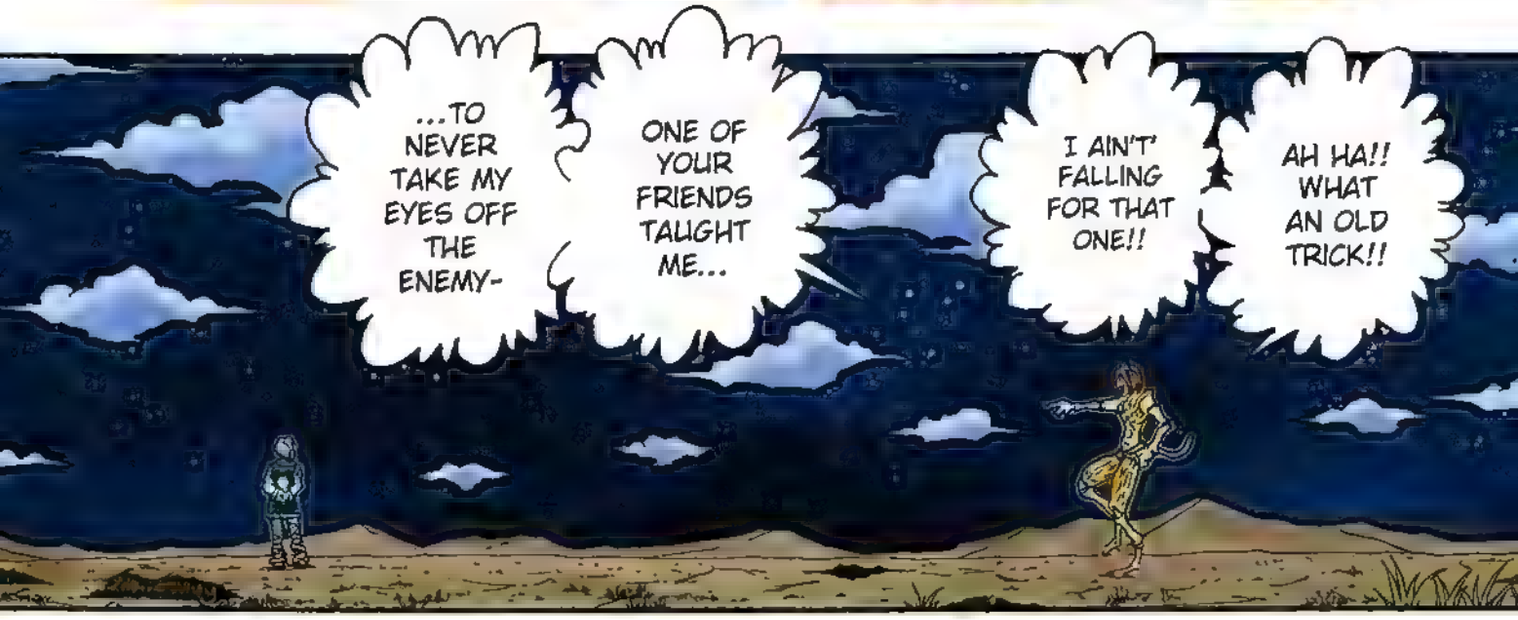
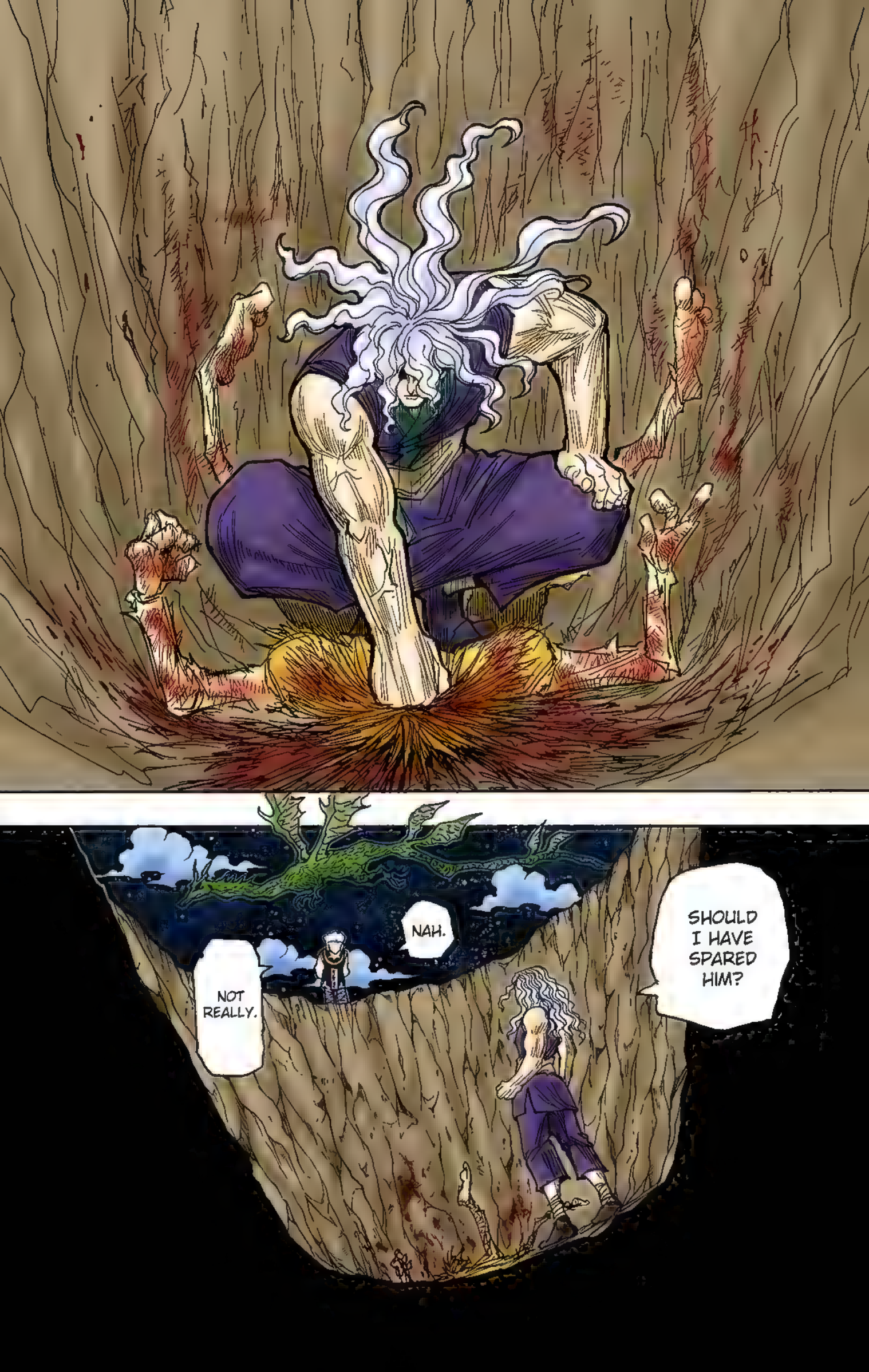

...TO NEVER TAKE MY EYES OFF THE ENEMY-
ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS TAUGHT ME...
I AIN'T FALLING FOR THAT ONE!!
AH HA!! WHAT AN OLD TRICK!!

...LOOKING WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED THE OUTCOME ANYWAY.
WELL ...


NAH.
NOT REALLY.
SHOULD I HAVE SPARED HIM?

HOW'S KILLUA ?

HM.

HE'S MATURED.

I SEE.

.....

AND I THINK HE REMOVED ILLUMI'S NEEDLE.

OH, YEAH! I HAD A BIZARRE EXPERIENCE !!

IT FELT LIKE MY TIME WAS CONDENSED! YOU SEE...

.....

I SHOULD TAKE YOUR STORIES WITH A GRAIN OF SALT, DAD...

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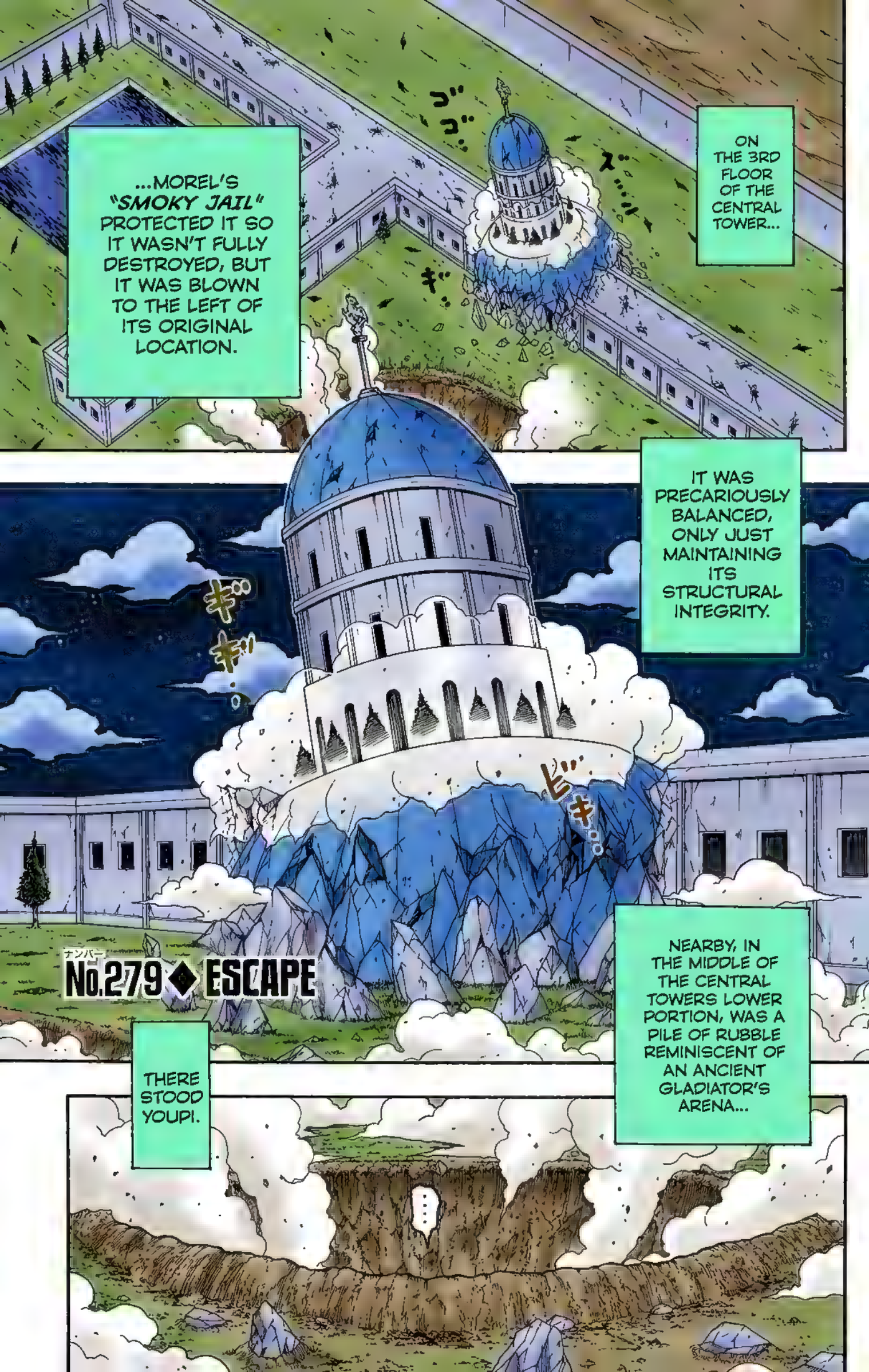
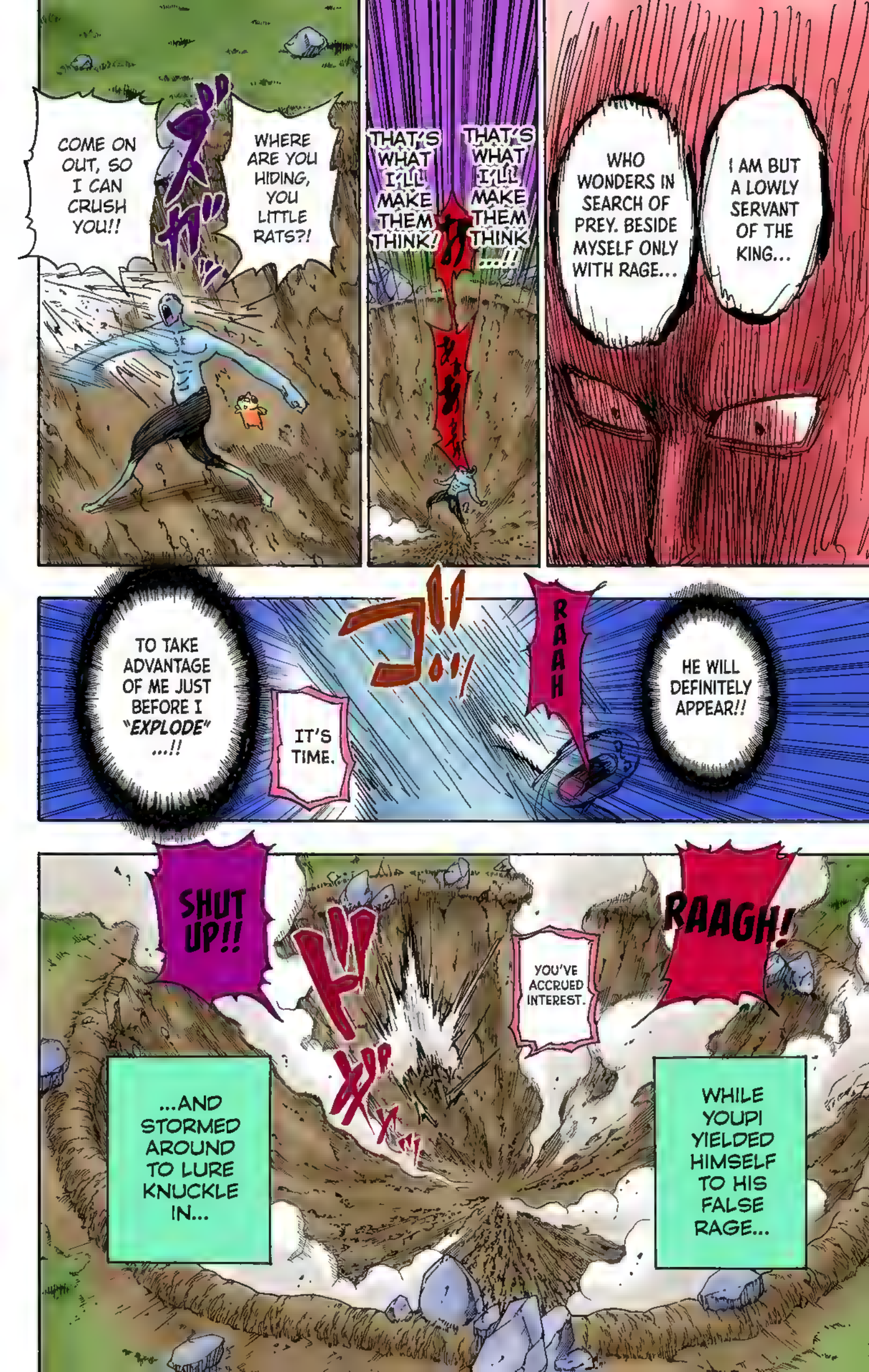
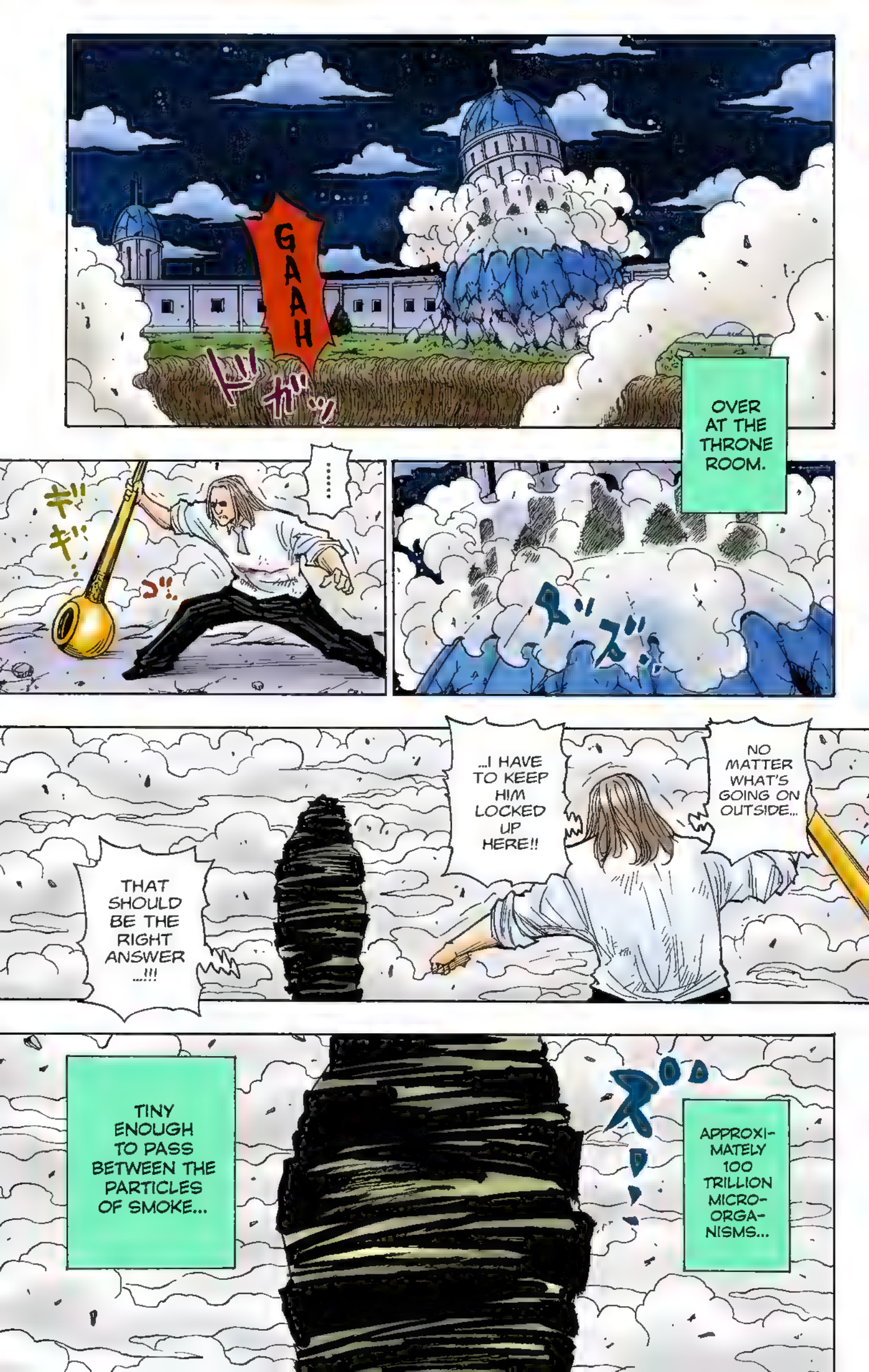
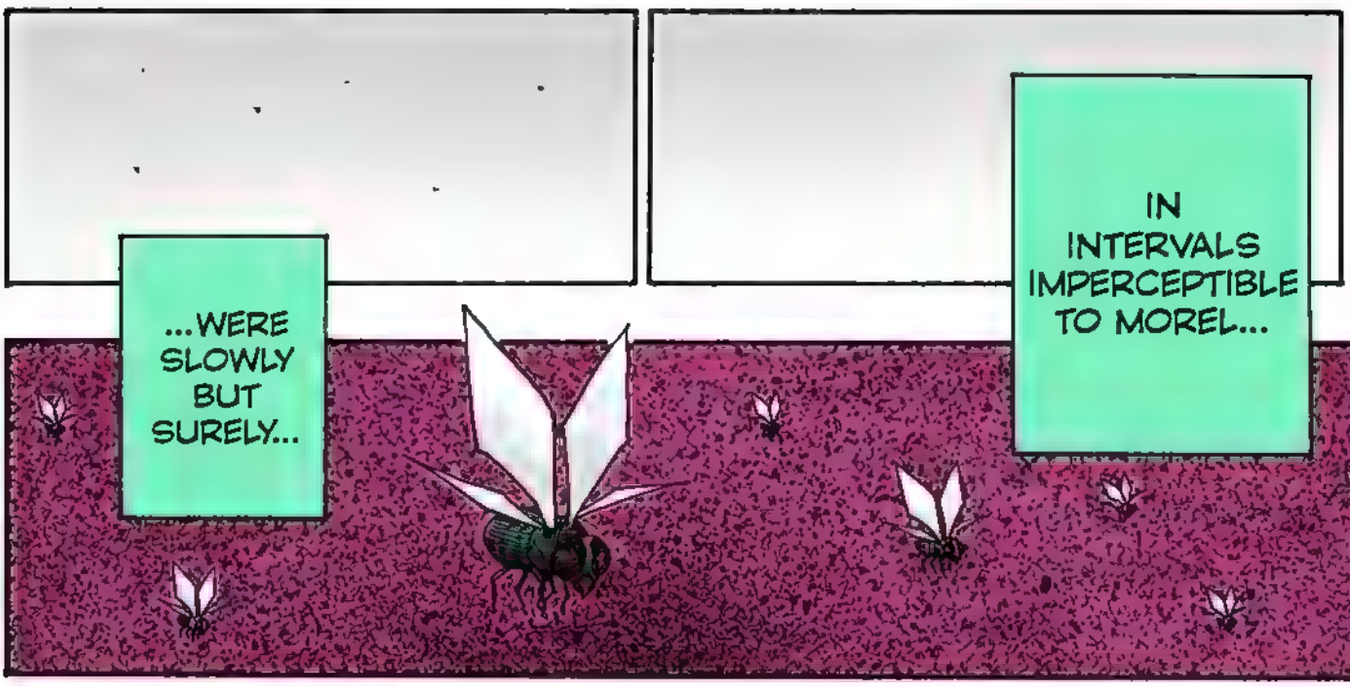
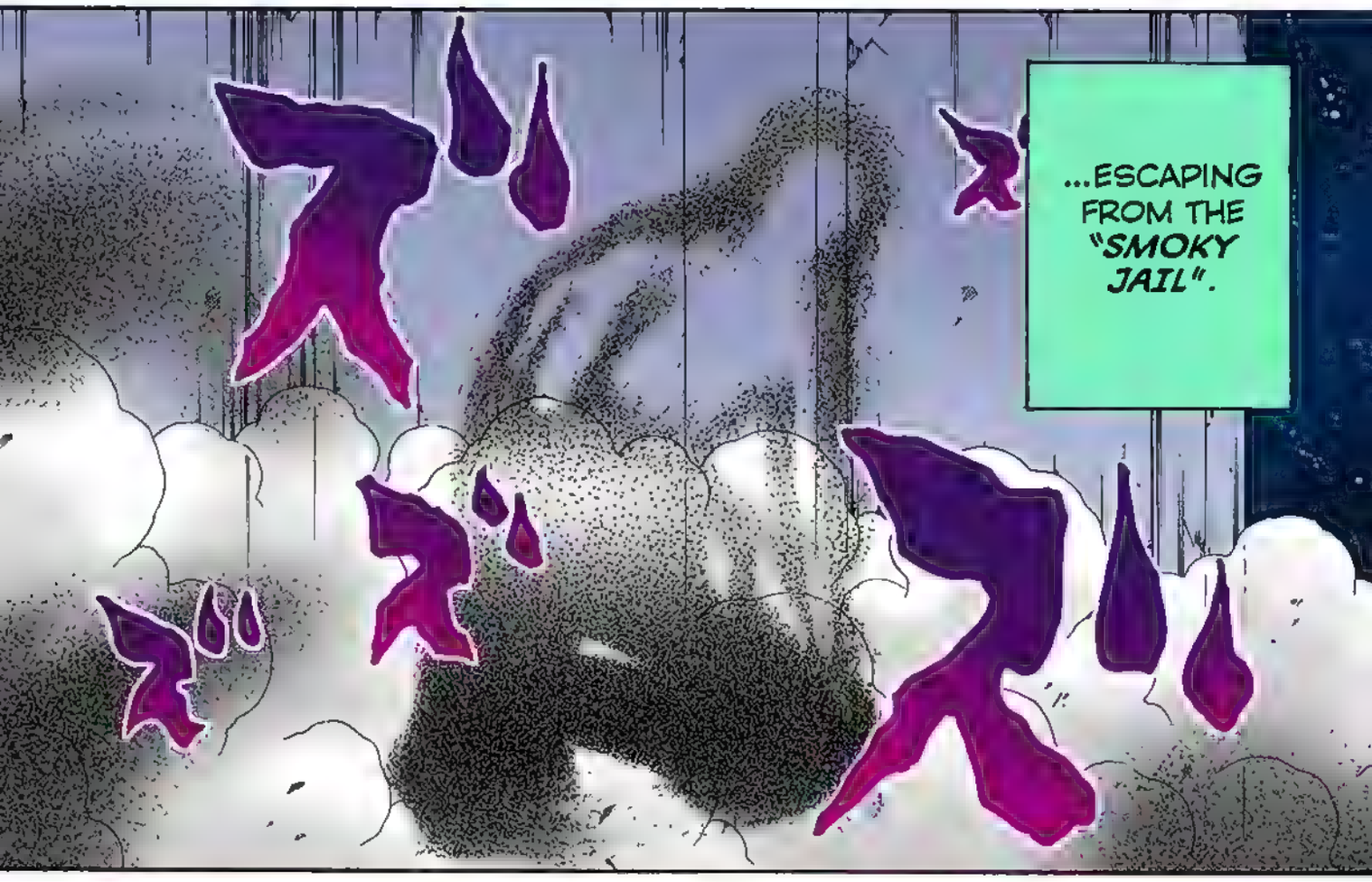

...MOREL'S "SMOKY JAIL" PROTECTED IT SO IT WASN'T FULLY DESTROYED, BUT IT WAS BLOWN TO THE LEFT OF ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION.
ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL TOWER...
IT WAS PRECARIOUSLY BALANCED, ONLY JUST MAINTAINING ITS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY.
NEARBY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CENTRAL TOWERS LOWER PORTION, WAS A PILE OF RUBBLE REMINISCENT OF AN ANCIENT GLADIATOR'S ARENA...
THERE STOOD YOU!.
ナンバー
No.279 ◆ ESCAPE

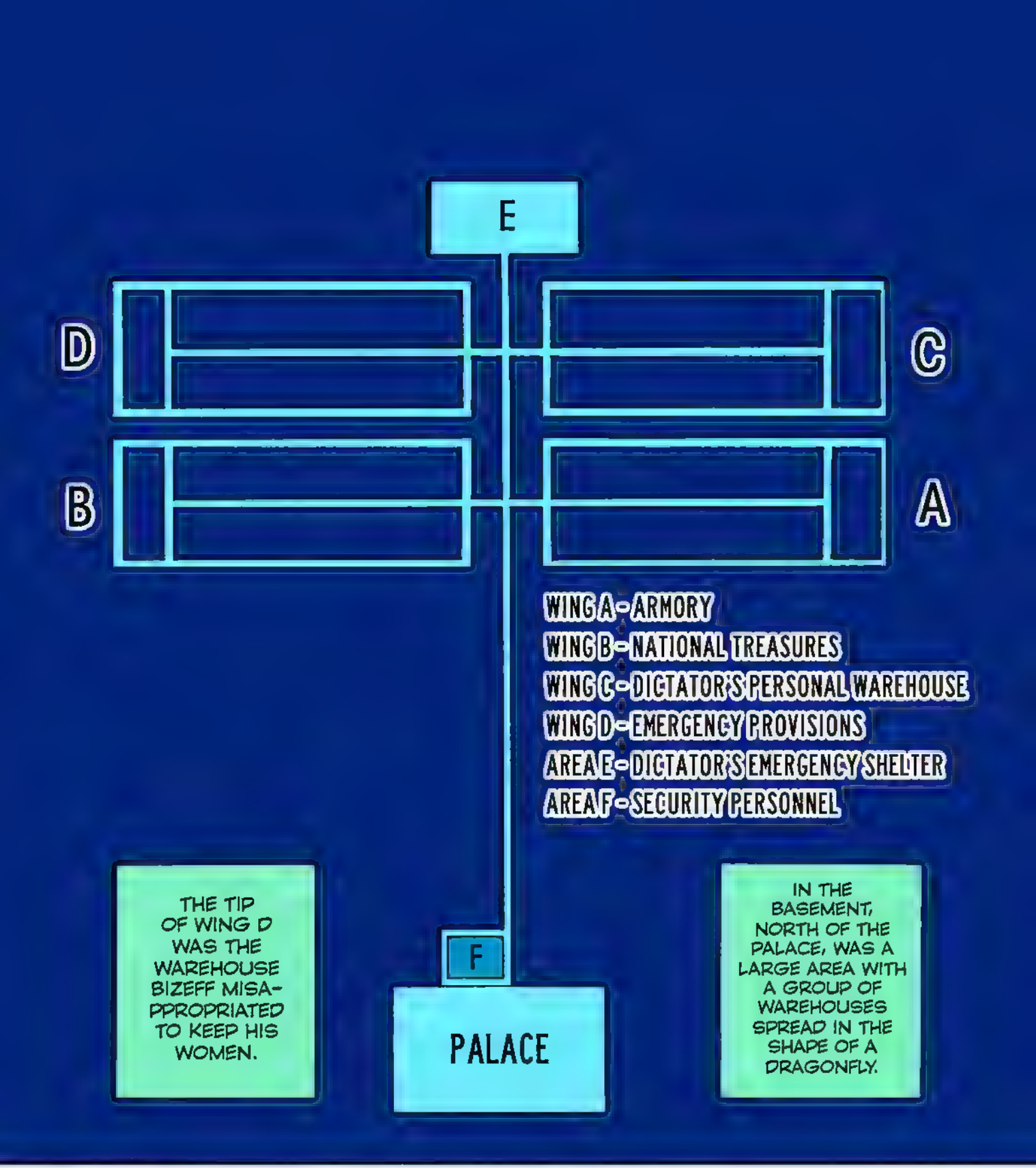

COME ON OUT, SO I CAN CRUSH YOU!!
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, YOU LITTLE RATS?!
THAT'S WHAT I'LL MAKE THEM THINK!
THAT'S WHAT I'LL MAKE THEM THINK...!!
WHO WONDERS IN SEARCH OF PREY. BESIDE MYSELF ONLY WITH RAGE...
I AM BUT A LOWLY SERVANT OF THE KING...
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME JUST BEFORE I "EXPLODE"...!!
IT'S TIME.
RAAH
HE WILL DEFINITELY APPEAR!!
SHUT UP!!
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
RAAGH!
...AND STORMED AROUND TO LURE KNUCKLE IN...
WHILE YOUPI YIELDED HIMSELF TO HIS FALSE RAGE...

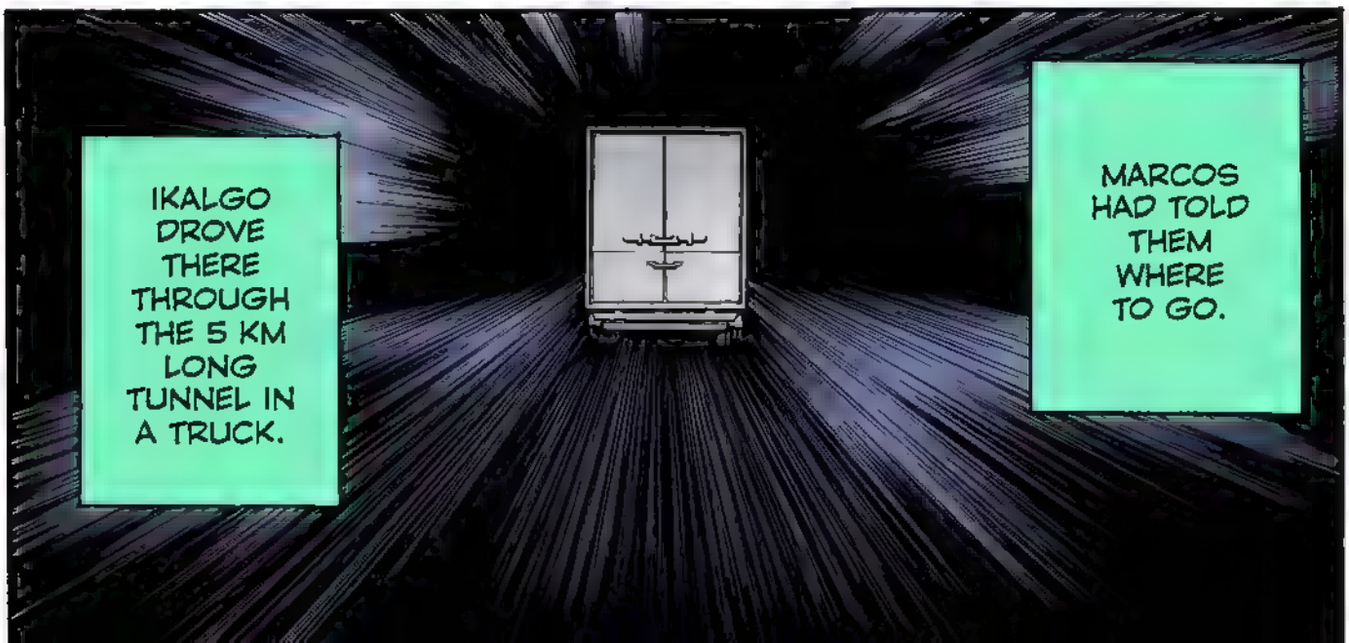

GAAH
OVER AT THE THRONE ROOM.
.....
THAT SHOULD BE THE RIGHT ANSWER ...!!!
...I HAVE TO KEEP HIM LOCKED UP HERE!!
NO MATTER WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE...
TINY ENOUGH TO PASS BETWEEN THE PARTICLES OF SMOKE...
APPROXI-MATELY 100 TRILLION MICRO-ORGA-NISMS...

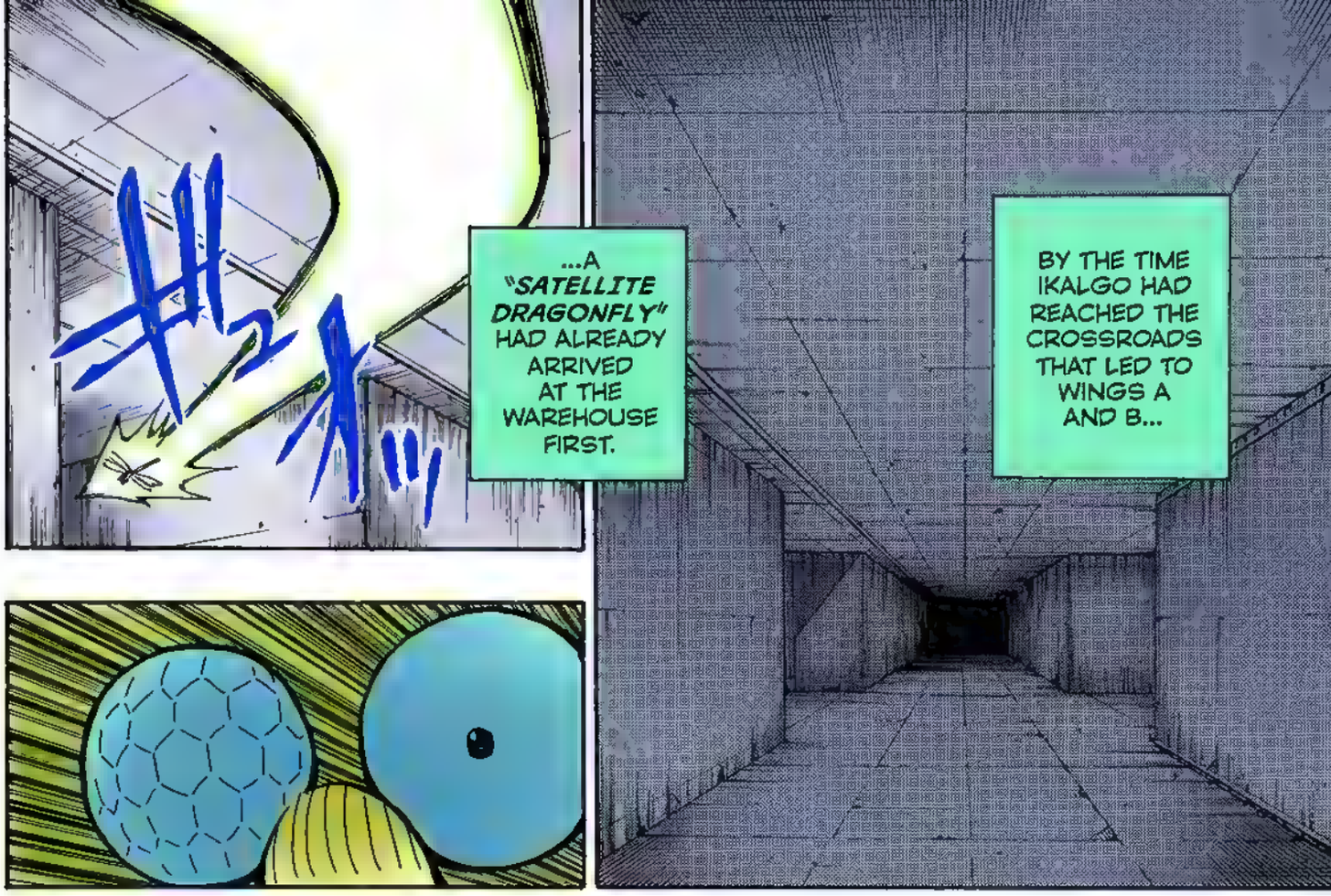

...WERE SLOWLY BUT SURELY...
IN INTERVALS IMPERCEPTIBLE TO MOREL...

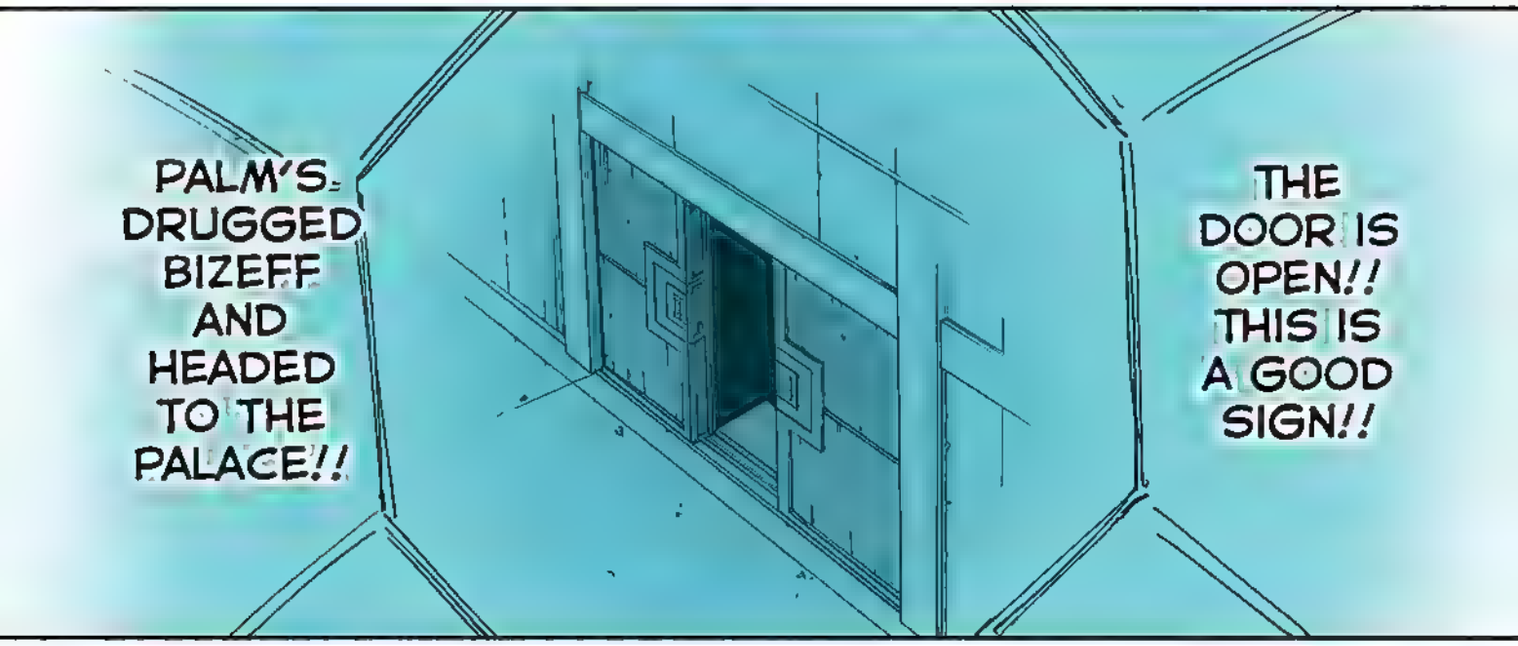

...ESCAPING FROM THE "SMOKY JAIL".

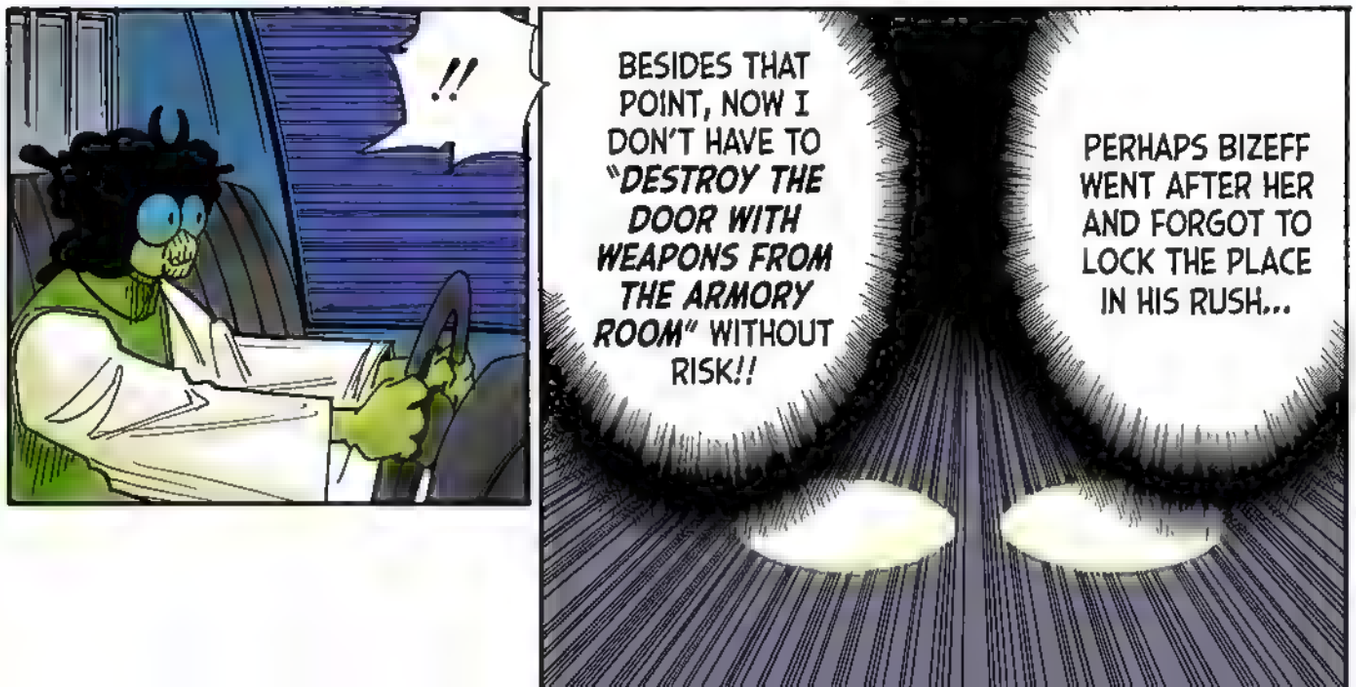
0:03:20:13

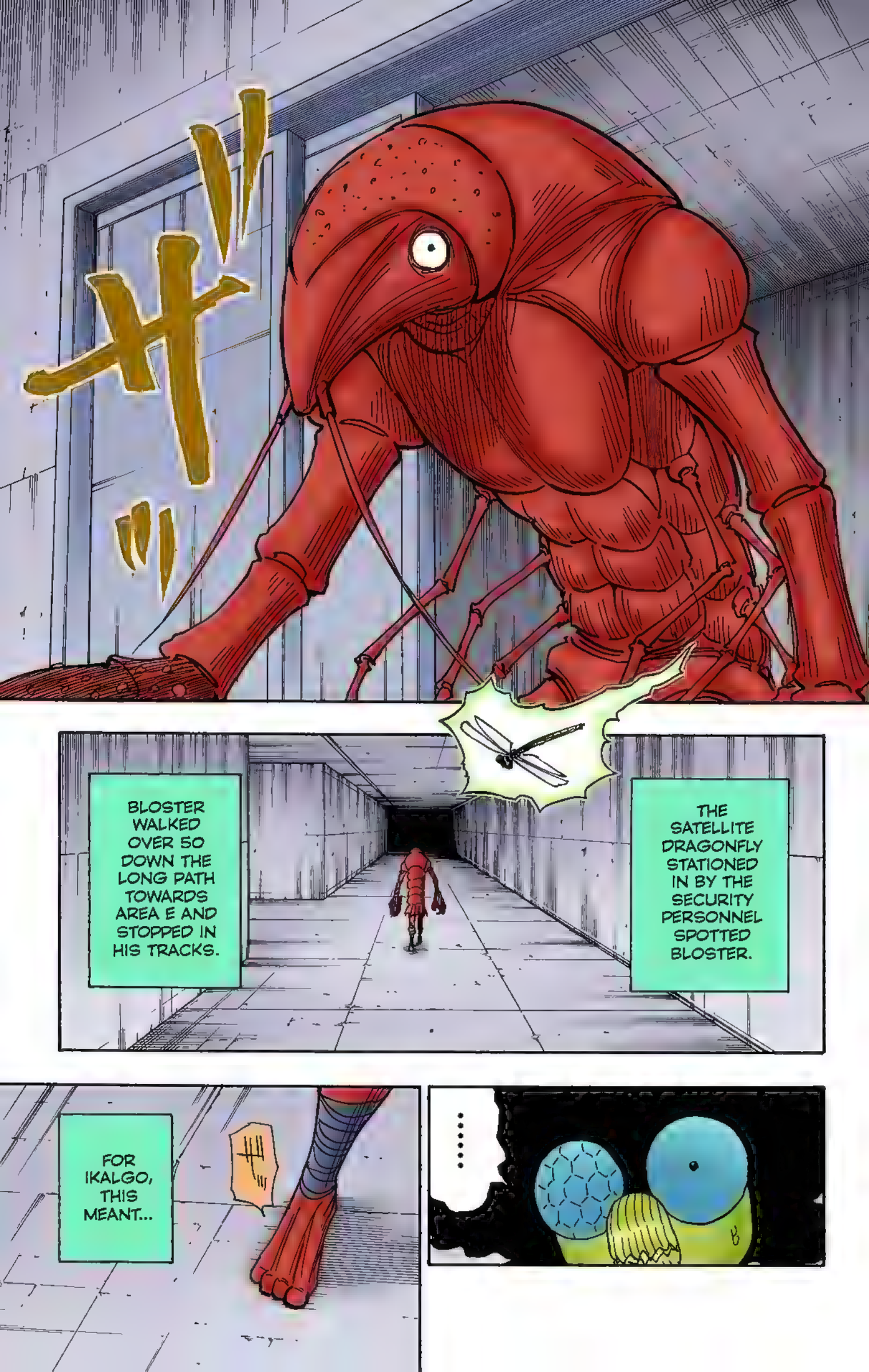

E
D
C
B
A
WING A - ARMORY
WING B - NATIONAL TREASURES
WING C - DICTATOR'S PERSONAL WAREHOUSE
WING D - EMERGENCY PROVISIONS
AREA E - DICTATOR'S EMERGENCY SHELTER
AREA F - SECURITY PERSONNEL
THE TIP OF WING D WAS THE WAREHOUSE BIZEFF MISA-PPROPRIATED TO KEEP HIS WOMEN.
F
PALACE
IN THE BASEMENT, NORTH OF THE PALACE, WAS A LARGE AREA WITH A GROUP OF WAREHOUSES SPREAD IN THE SHAPE OF A DRAGONFLY.

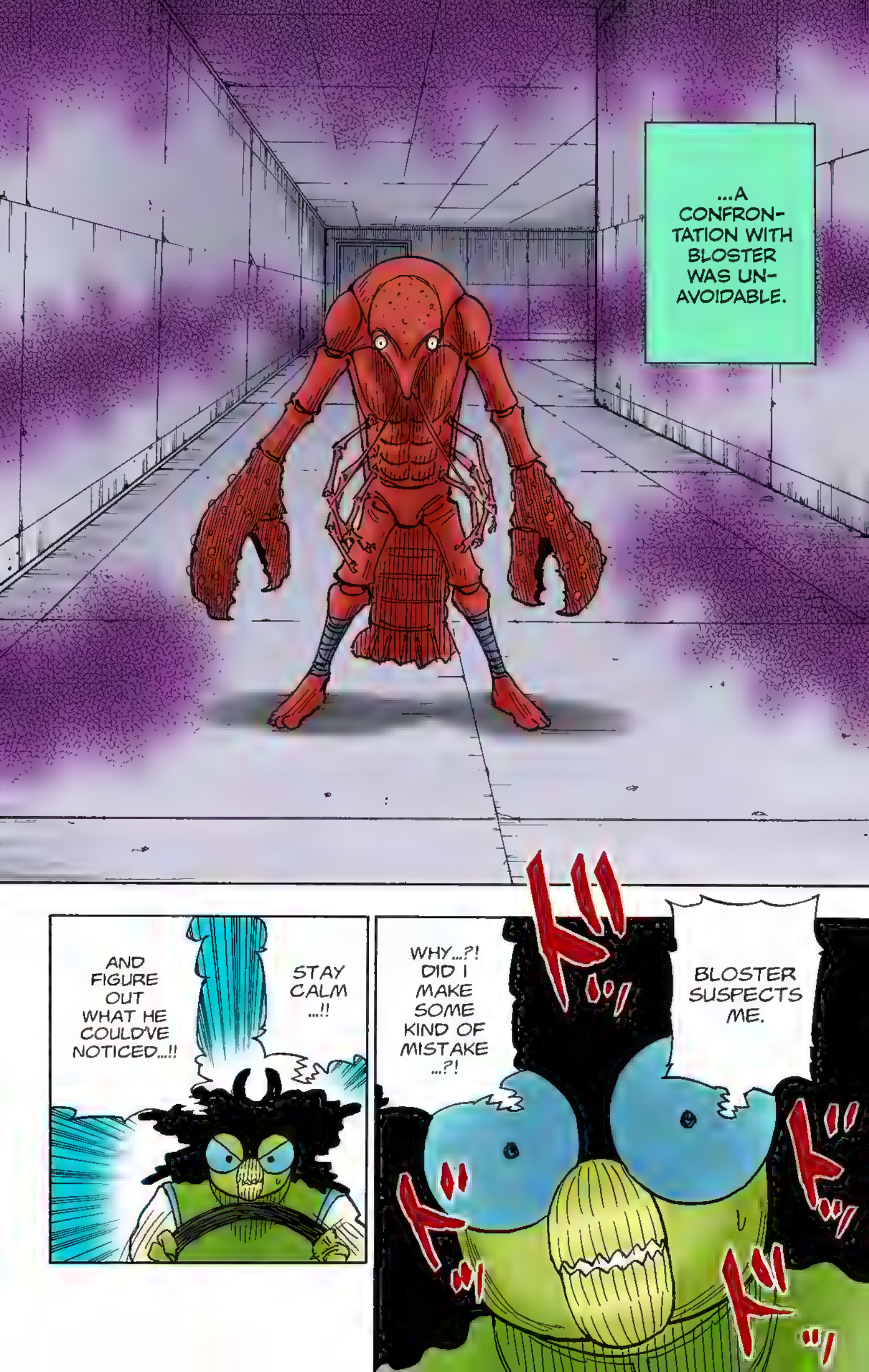

IKALGO DROVE THERE THROUGH THE 5 KM LONG TUNNEL IN A TRUCK.
MARCOS HAD TOLD THEM WHERE TO GO.


...A "SATELLITE DRAGONFLY" HAD ALREADY ARRIVED AT THE WAREHOUSE FIRST.
BY THE TIME IKALGO HAD REACHED THE CROSSROADS THAT LED TO WINGS A AND B...

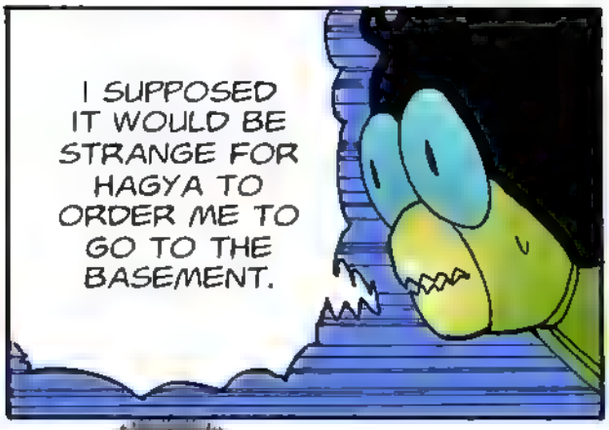

PALM'S DRUGGED BIZEFF AND HEADED TO THE PALACE!!
THE DOOR IS OPEN!! THIS IS A GOOD SIGN!!

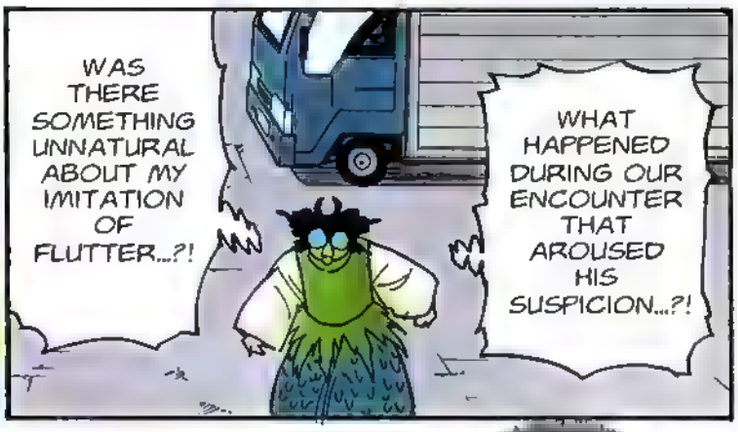

!!
BESIDES THAT POINT, NOW I DON'T HAVE TO "DESTROY THE DOOR WITH WEAPONS FROM THE ARMORY ROOM" WITHOUT RISK!!
PERHAPS BIZEFF WENT AFTER HER AND FORGOT TO LOCK THE PLACE IN HIS RUSH...

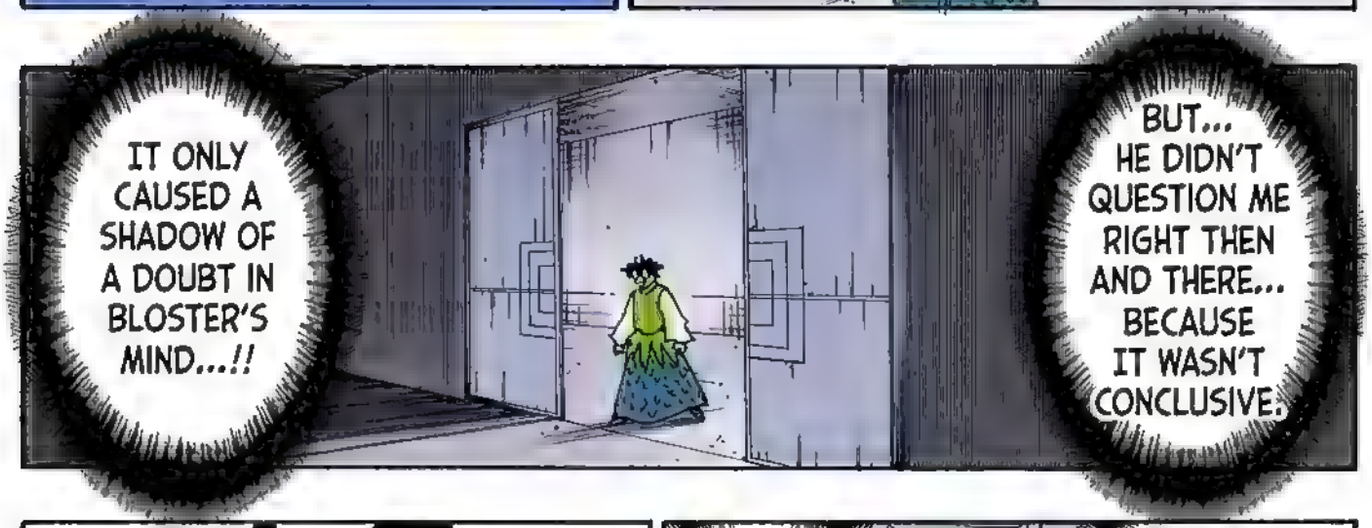

BLOSTER WALKED OVER 50 DOWN THE LONG PATH TOWARDS AREA E AND STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS.
THE SATELLITE DRAGONFLY STATIONED IN BY THE SECURITY PERSONNEL SPOTTED BLOSTER.
FOR IKALGO, THIS MEANT...
.....

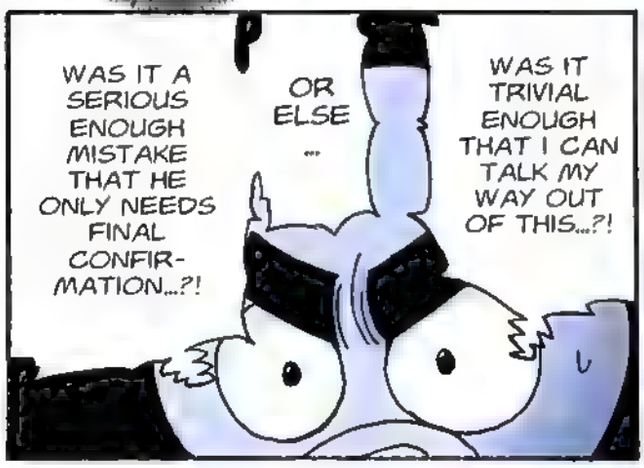

...A CONFRONTATION WITH BLOSTER WAS UNAVOIDABLE.
AND FIGURE OUT WHAT HE COULD'VE NOTICED...!!
STAY CALM ...!!
WHY...?! DID I MAKE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE ...?!
BLOSTER SUSPECTS ME.
ド!!
ド!!
ド!!
ド!!
ド!!

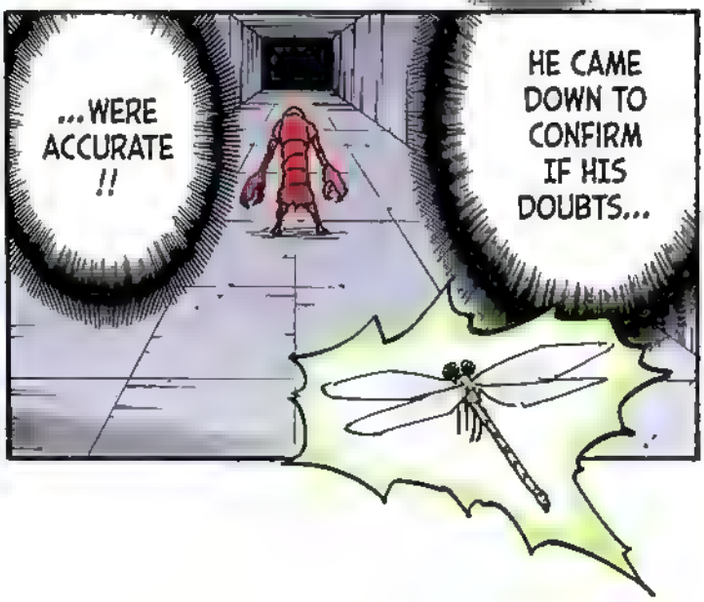
I HAVE TO SURVIVE...!!

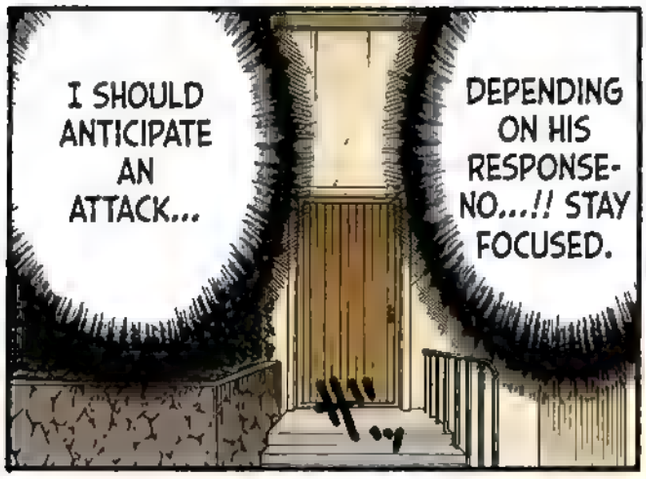

I SUPPOSED IT WOULD BE STRANGE FOR HAGYA TO ORDER ME TO GO TO THE BASEMENT.

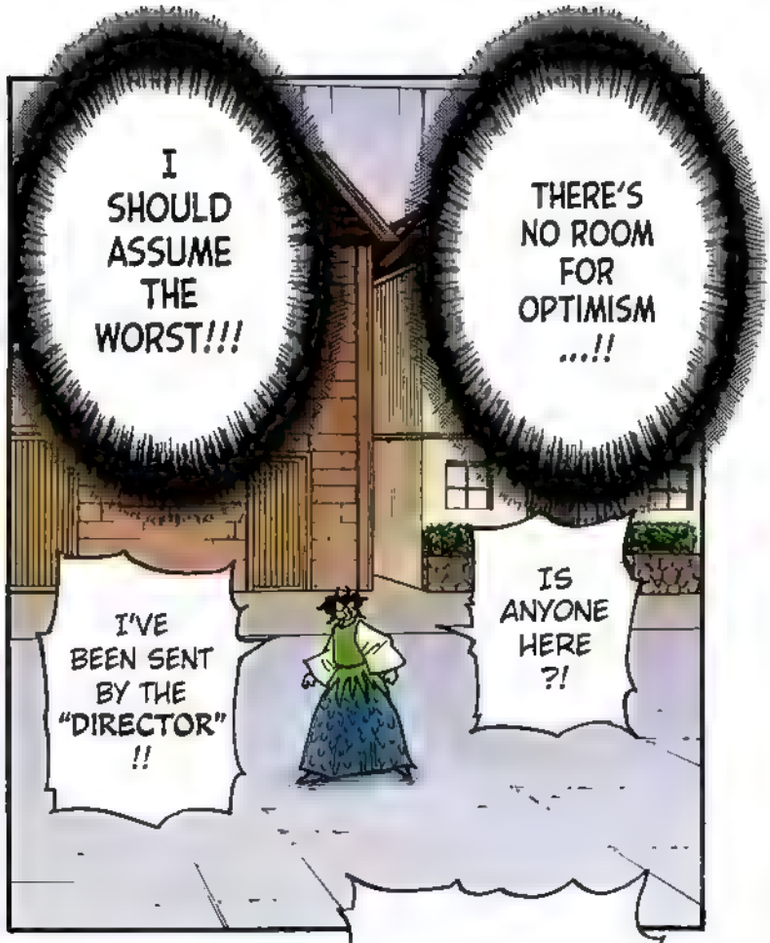

WAS THERE SOMETHING UNNATURAL ABOUT MY IMITATION OF FLUTTER...?!
WHAT HAPPENED DURING OUR ENCOUNTER THAT AROUSED HIS SUSPICION...?!


IT ONLY CAUSED A SHADOW OF A DOUBT IN BLOSTER'S MIND...!!
BUT... HE DIDN'T QUESTION ME RIGHT THEN AND THERE... BECAUSE IT WASN'T CONCLUSIVE.

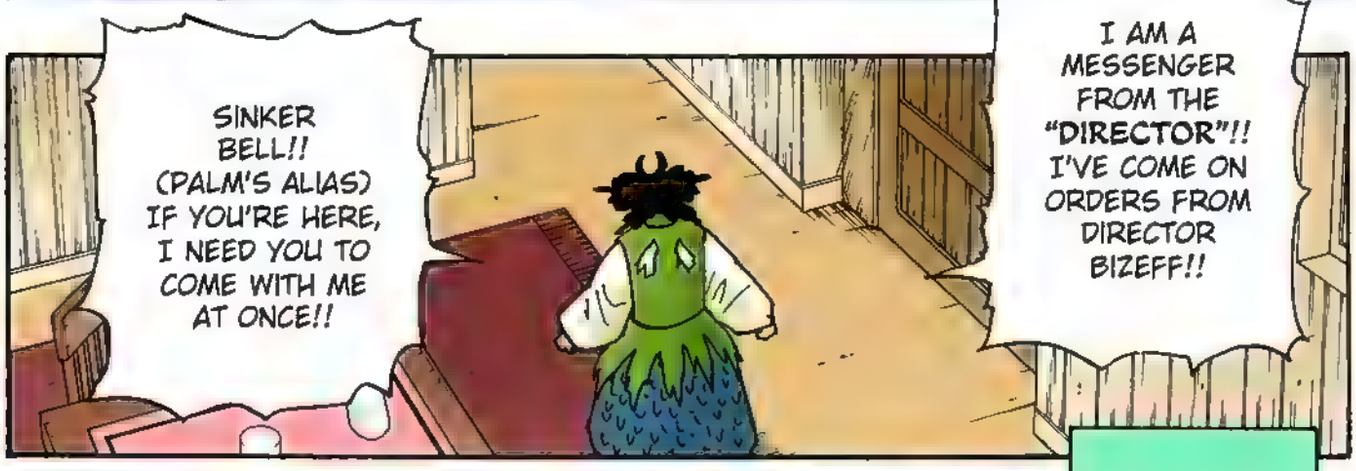

WAS IT A SERIOUS ENOUGH MISTAKE THAT HE ONLY NEEDS FINAL CONFIR-MATION...?!
OR ELSE ...
WAS IT TRIVIAL ENOUGH THAT I CAN TALK MY WAY OUT OF THIS...?!


...WERE ACCURATE !!
HE CAME DOWN TO CONFIRM IF HIS DOUBTS...

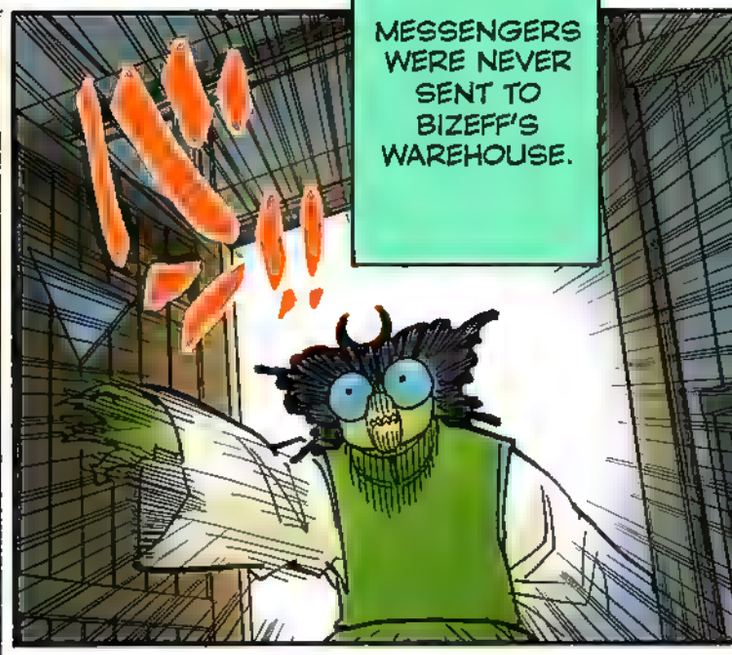

I SHOULD ANTICIPATE AN ATTACK...
DEPENDING ON HIS RESPONSE- NO...!! STAY FOCUSED.

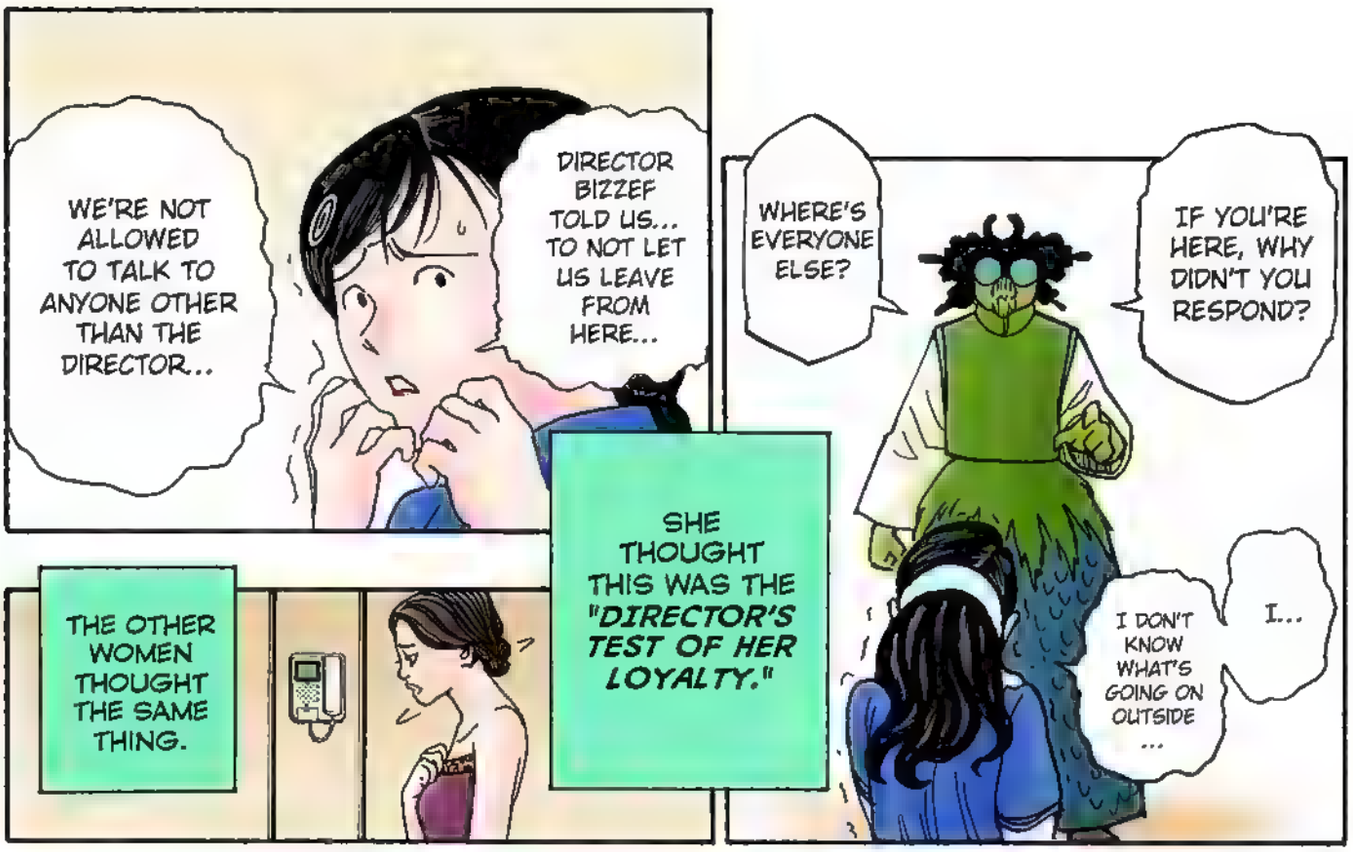

I SHOULD ASSUME THE WORST!!!
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR OPTIMISM ...!!
I'VE BEEN SENT BY THE "DIRECTOR" !!
IS ANYONE HERE ?!

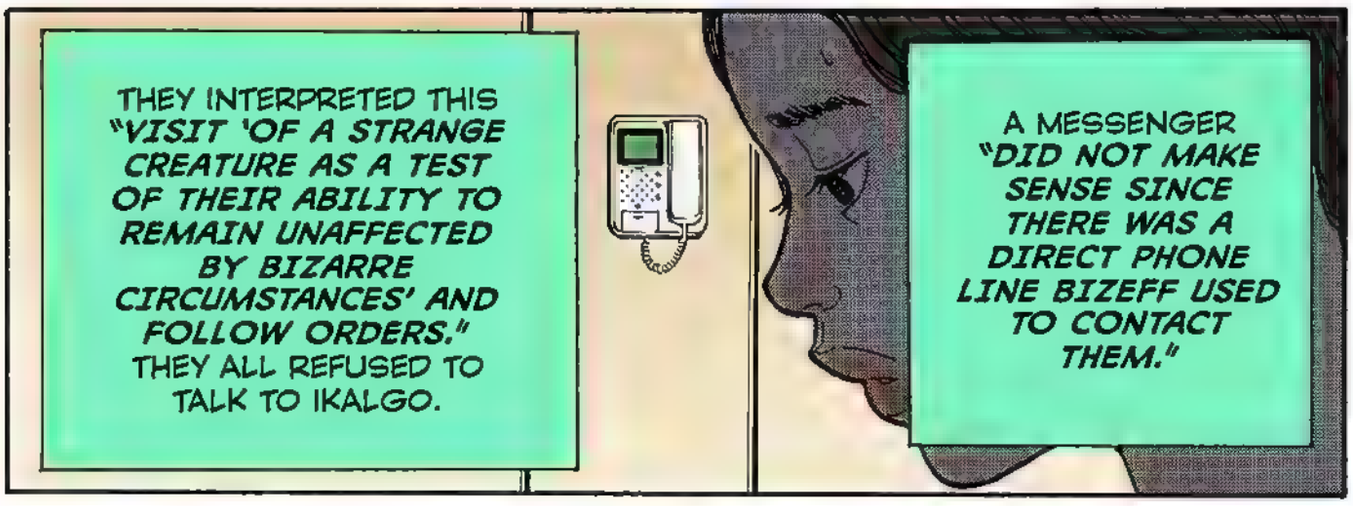
OR ELSE I'LL BE KILLED !!

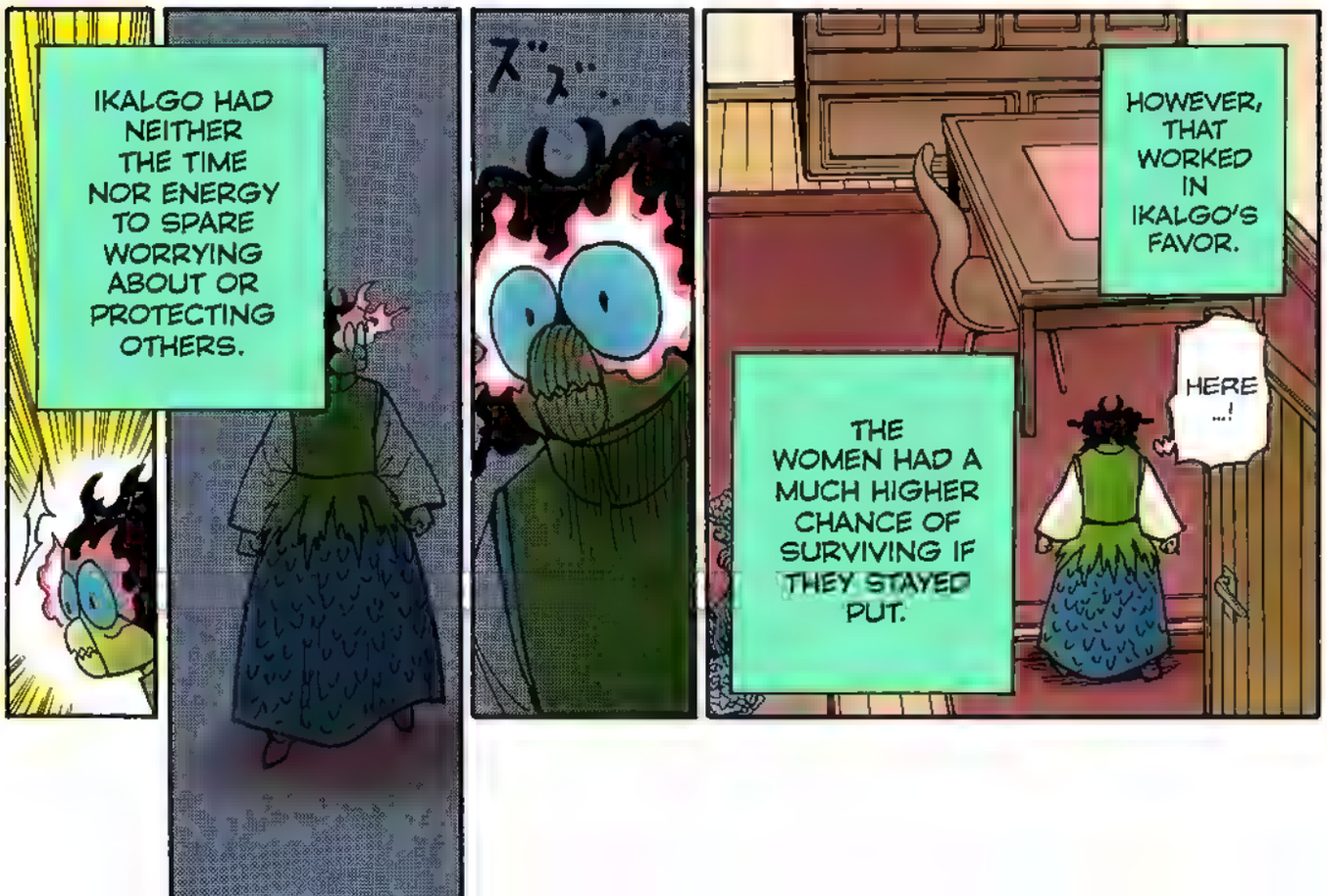

SINKER BELL!! (PALM'S ALIAS) IF YOU'RE HERE, I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME AT ONCE!!
I AM A MESSENGER FROM THE "DIRECTOR"!! I'VE COME ON ORDERS FROM DIRECTOR BIZEFF!!

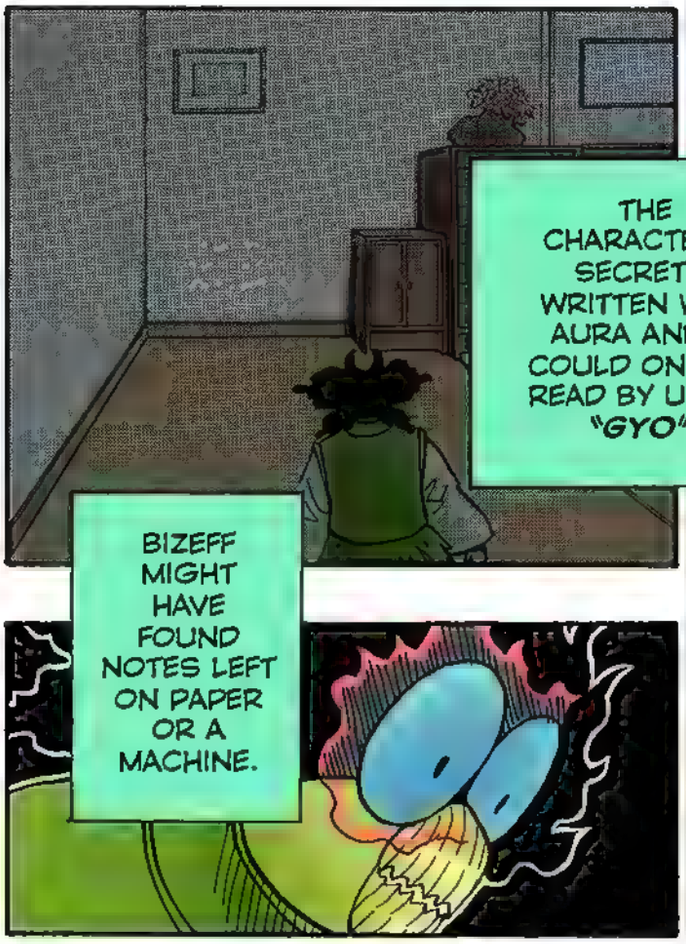
THIS WAS THE CODE TO PALM THAT HE WAS AN ALLY.
EEP!
!

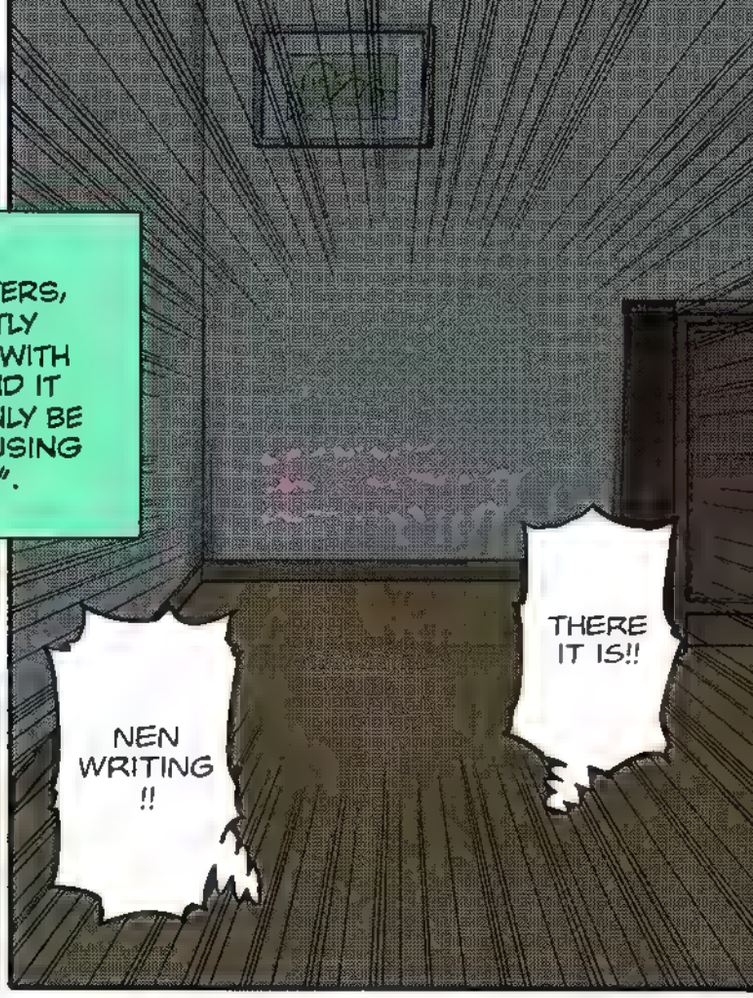

MESSENGERS WERE NEVER SENT TO BIZEFF'S WAREHOUSE.

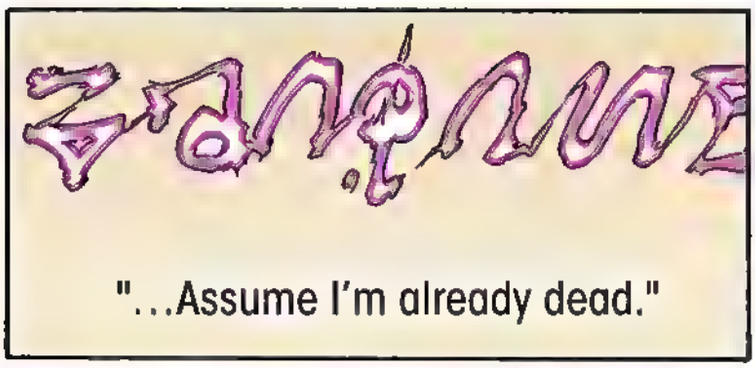

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TALK TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THE DIRECTOR...
DIRECTOR BIZZEF TOLD US... TO NOT LET US LEAVE FROM HERE...
THE OTHER WOMEN THOUGHT THE SAME THING.
SHE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE "DIRECTOR'S TEST OF HER LOYALTY."
WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
IF YOU'RE HERE, WHY DIDN'T YOU RESPOND?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE ...
I...

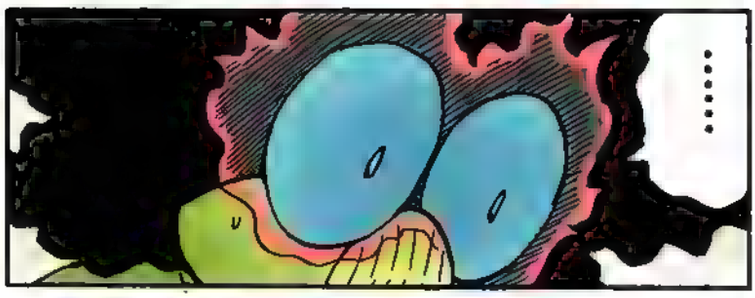

THEY INTERPRETED THIS "VISIT 'OF A STRANGE CREATURE AS A TEST OF THEIR ABILITY TO REMAIN UNAFFECTED BY BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES' AND FOLLOW ORDERS." THEY ALL REFUSED TO TALK TO IKALGO.
A MESSENGER "DID NOT MAKE SENSE SINCE THERE WAS A DIRECT PHONE LINE BIZEFF USED TO CONTACT THEM."


IKALGO HAD NEITHER THE TIME NOR ENERGY TO SPARE WORRYING ABOUT OR PROTECTING OTHERS.
ズズ...
THE WOMEN HAD A MUCH HIGHER CHANCE OF SURVIVING IF THEY STAYED PUT.
HOWEVER, THAT WORKED IN IKALGO'S FAVOR.
HERE ...!

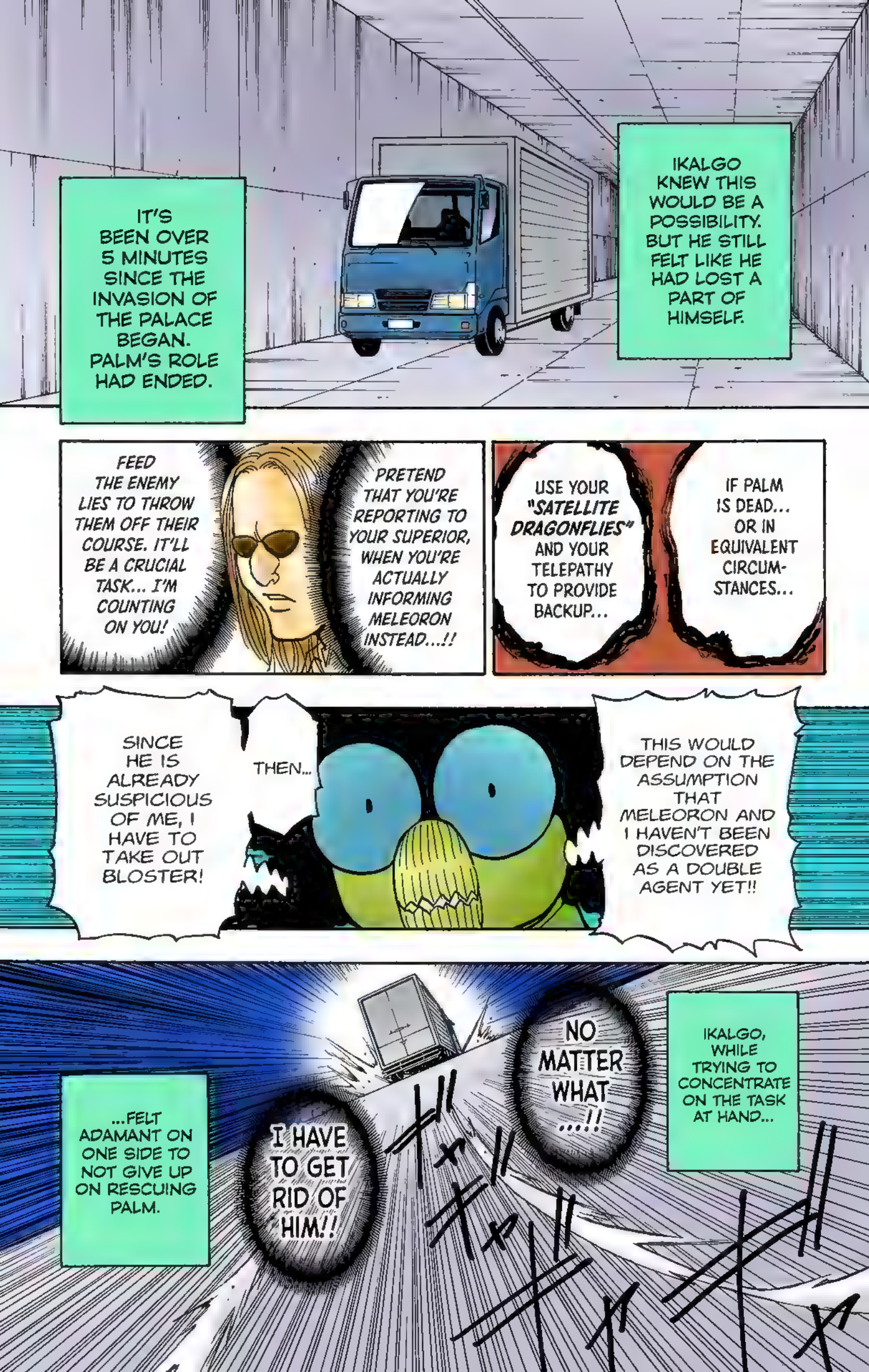

THE CHARACTERS, SECRETLY WRITTEN WITH AURA AND IT COULD ONLY BE READ BY USING "GYO".
BIZEFF MIGHT HAVE FOUND NOTES LEFT ON PAPER OR A MACHINE.


THERE IT IS!!
NEN WRITING !!


"...Assume I'm already dead."


.....

"IF THERE'S NO CONTACT BY THE TIME OF THE ATTACK..."
"I'M GOING TO THE PALACE ..."


IT'S BEEN OVER 5 MINUTES SINCE THE INVASION OF THE PALACE BEGAN. PALM'S ROLE HAD ENDED.
IKALGO KNEW THIS WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY. BUT HE STILL FELT LIKE HE HAD LOST A PART OF HIMSELF.
FEED THE ENEMY LIES TO THROW THEM OFF THEIR COURSE. IT'LL BE A CRUCIAL TASK... I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
PRETEND THAT YOU'RE REPORTING TO YOUR SUPERIOR, WHEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY INFORMING MELEORON INSTEAD...!!
USE YOUR "SATELLITE DRAGONFLIES" AND YOUR TELEPATHY TO PROVIDE BACKUP...
IF PALM IS DEAD... OR IN EQUIVALENT CIRCUM-STANCES...
SINCE HE IS ALREADY SUSPICIOUS OF ME, I HAVE TO TAKE OUT BLOSTER!
THEN...
THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MELEORON AND I HAVEN'T BEEN DISCOVERED AS A DOUBLE AGENT YET!!
...FELT ADAMANT ON ONE SIDE TO NOT GIVE UP ON RESCUING PALM.
I HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM!!
NO MATTER WHAT ...!!
IKALGO, WHILE TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND...

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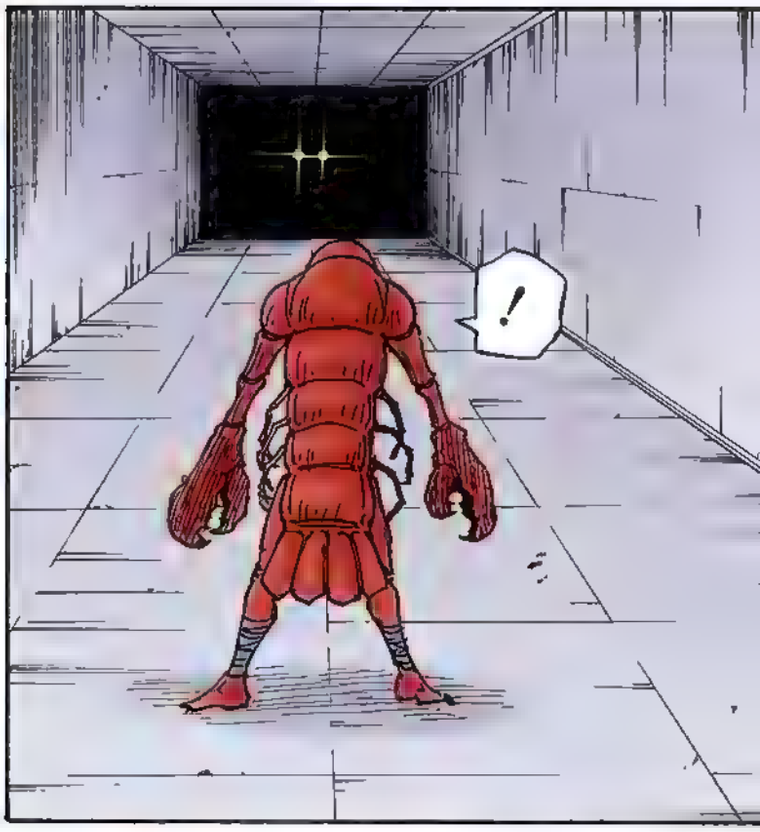
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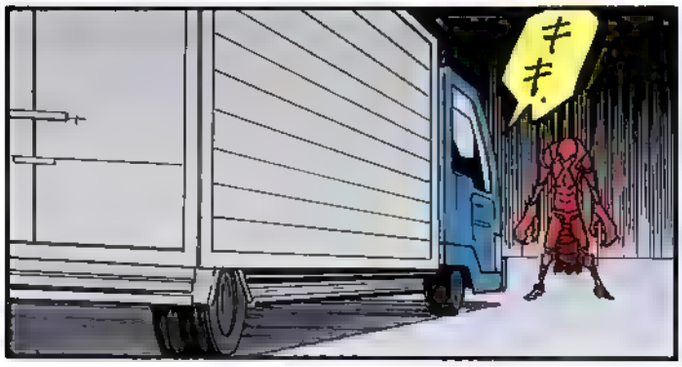
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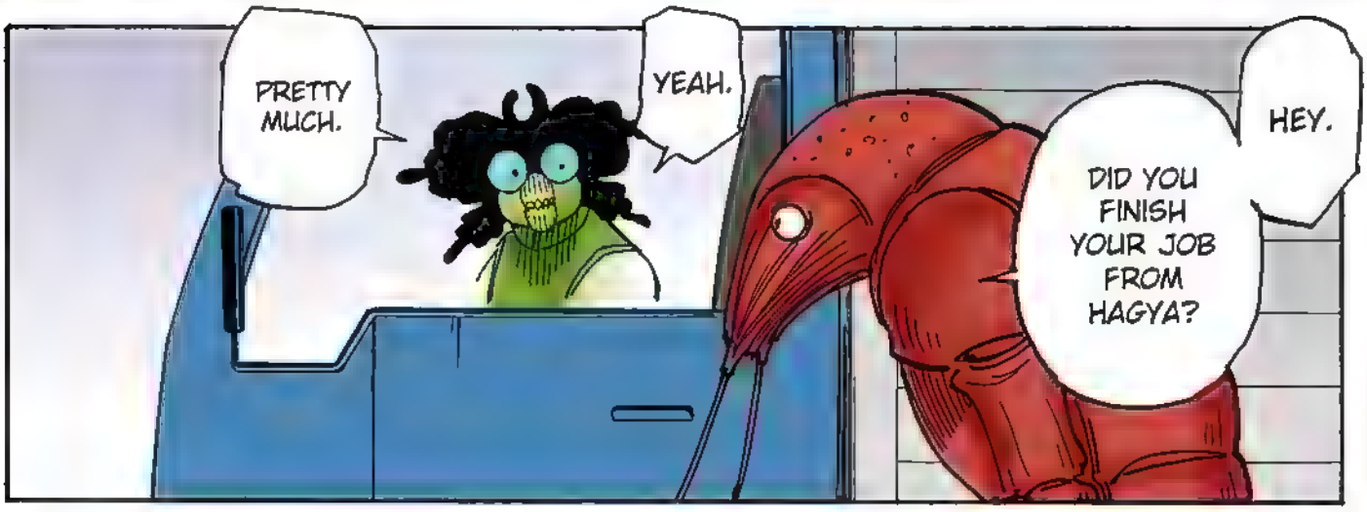
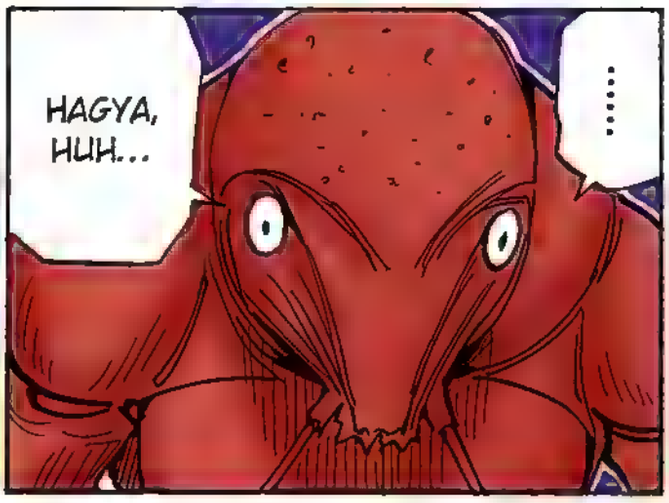
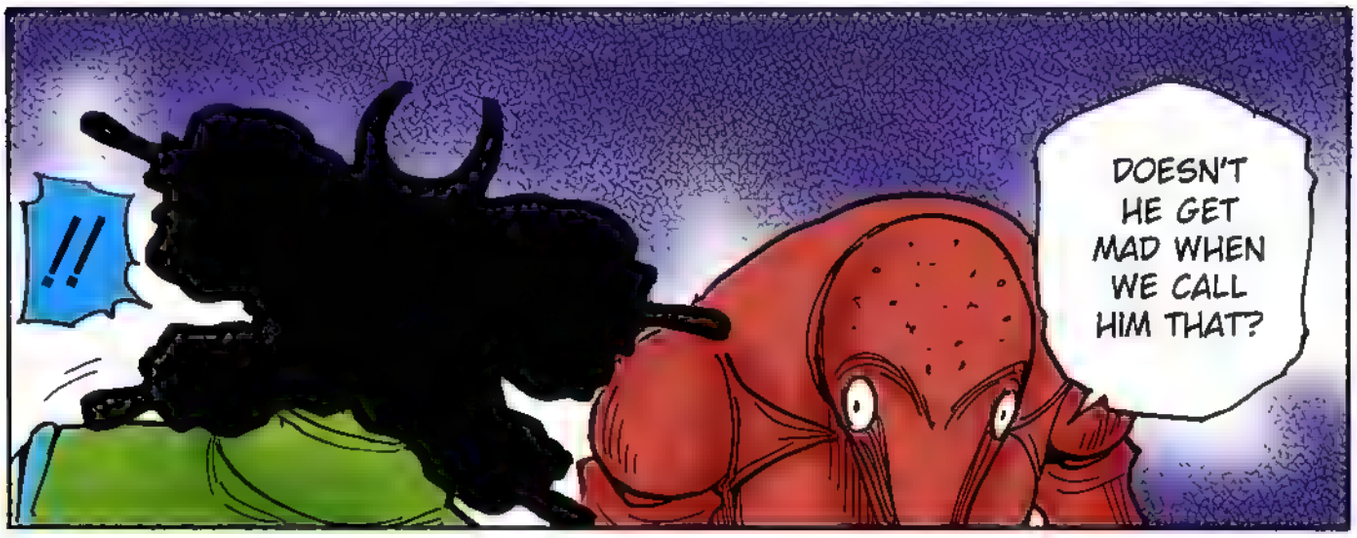
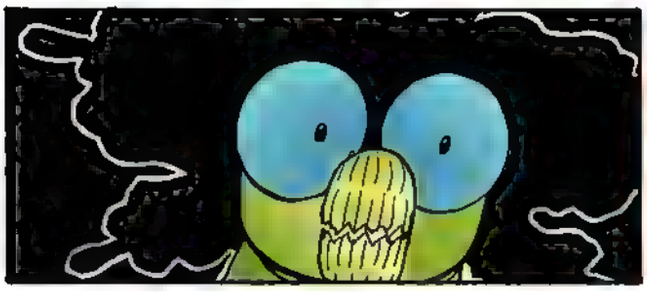
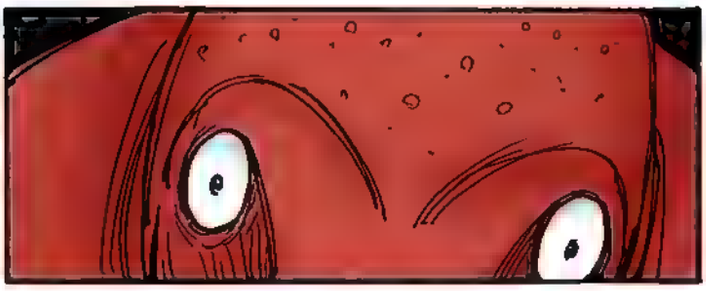

PRETTY MUCH.
YEAH.
HEY.
DID YOU FINISH YOUR JOB FROM HAGYA?

.....


HAGYA, HUH...
.....


!!
DOESN'T HE GET MAD WHEN WE CALL HIM THAT?





KIFFE

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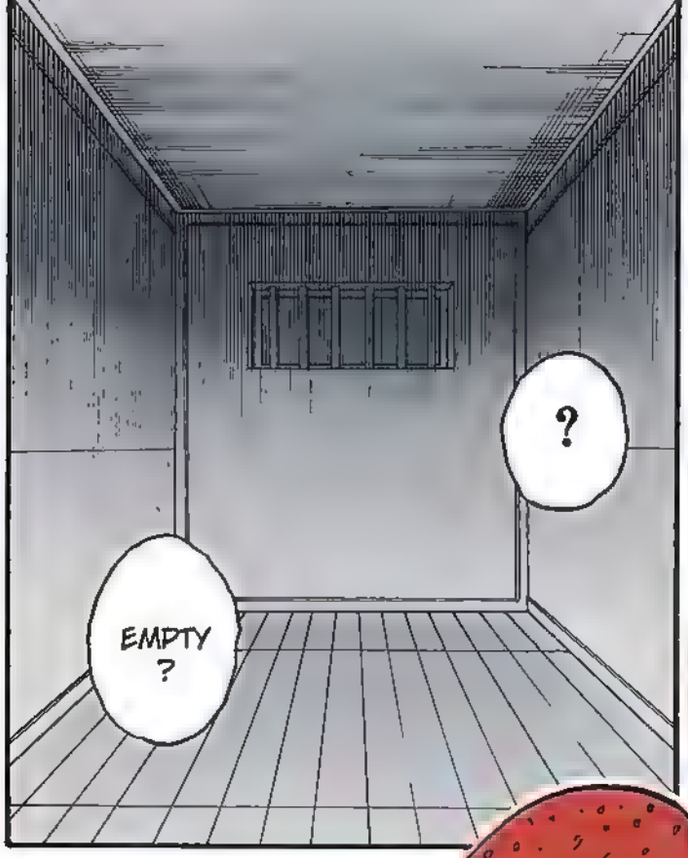
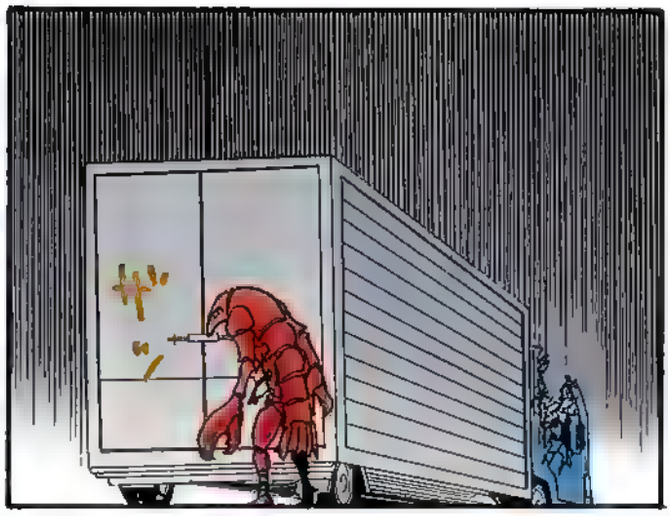
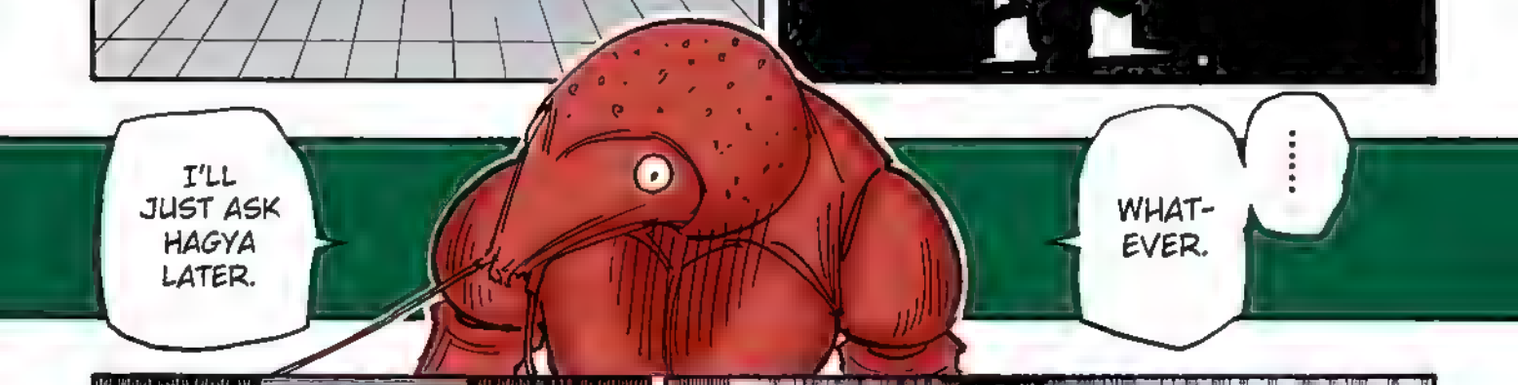
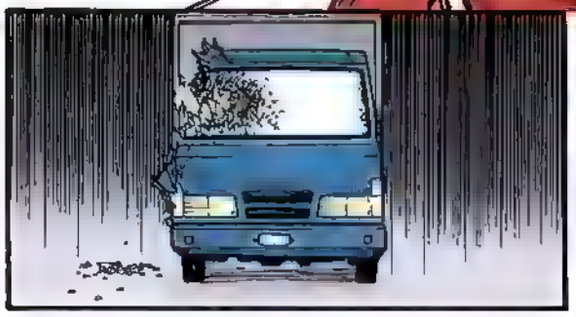
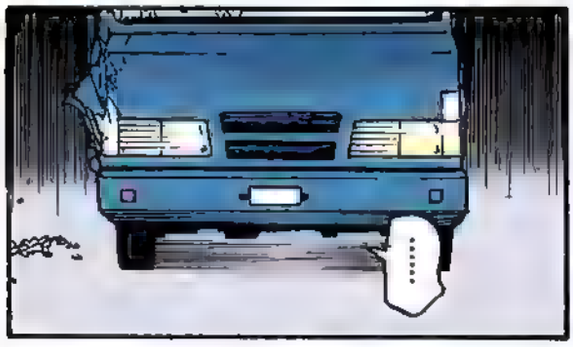
...THE IMPOSTER IS DEAD.
AND NOW...


EMPTY ?
?




I'LL JUST ASK HAGYA LATER.
WHAT-EVER.
.....

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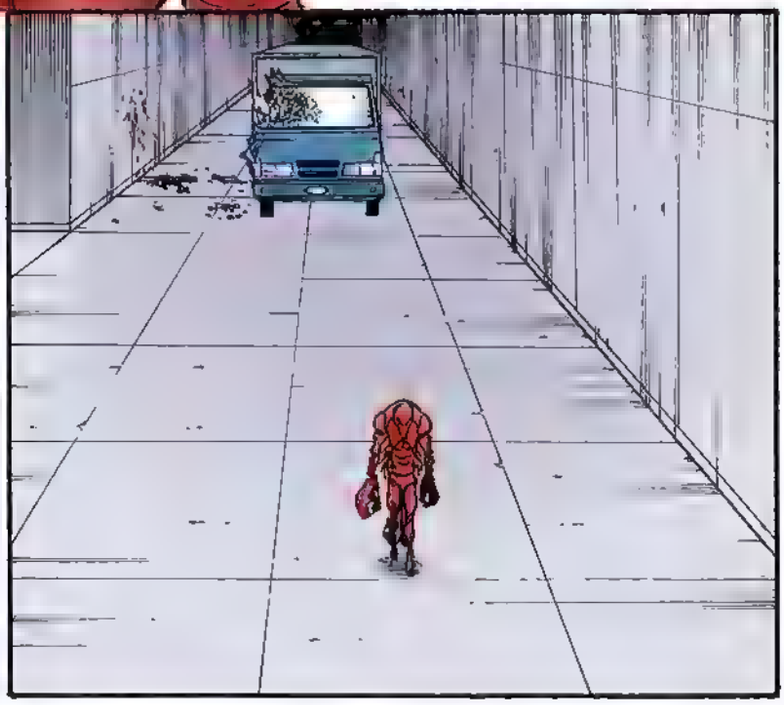
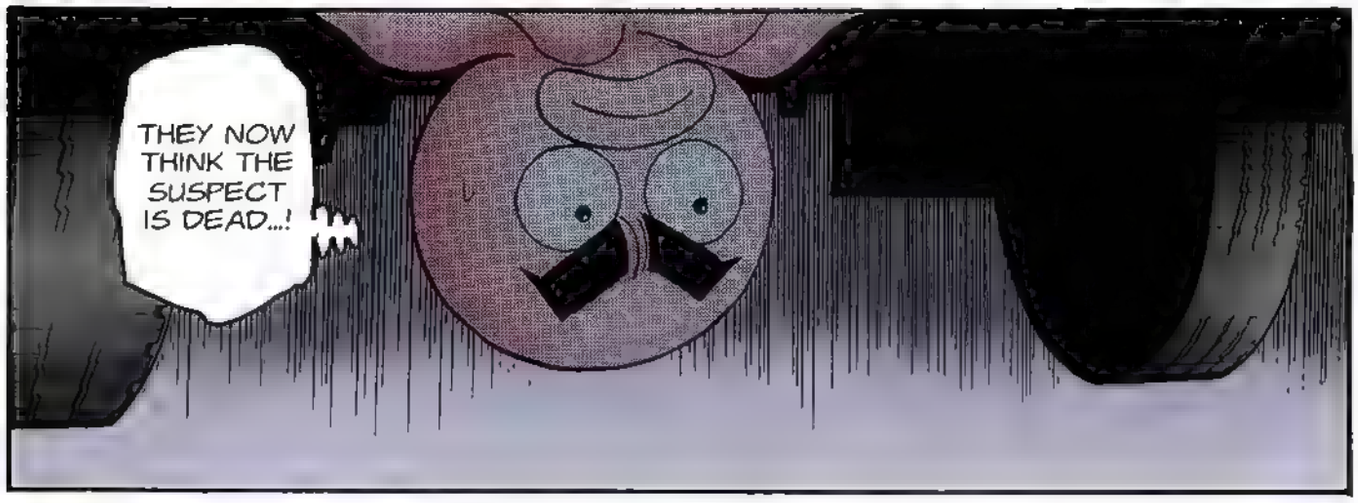
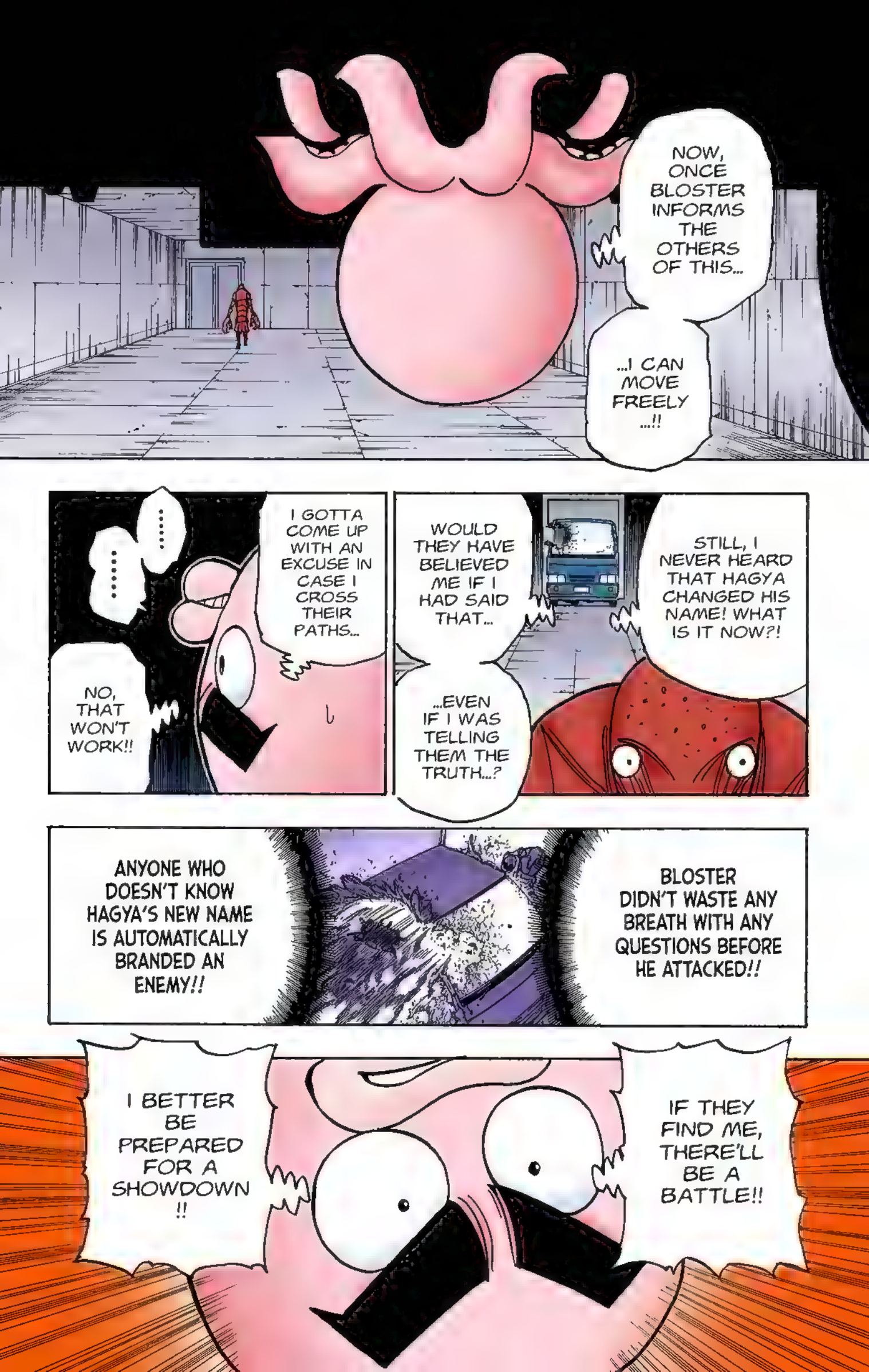
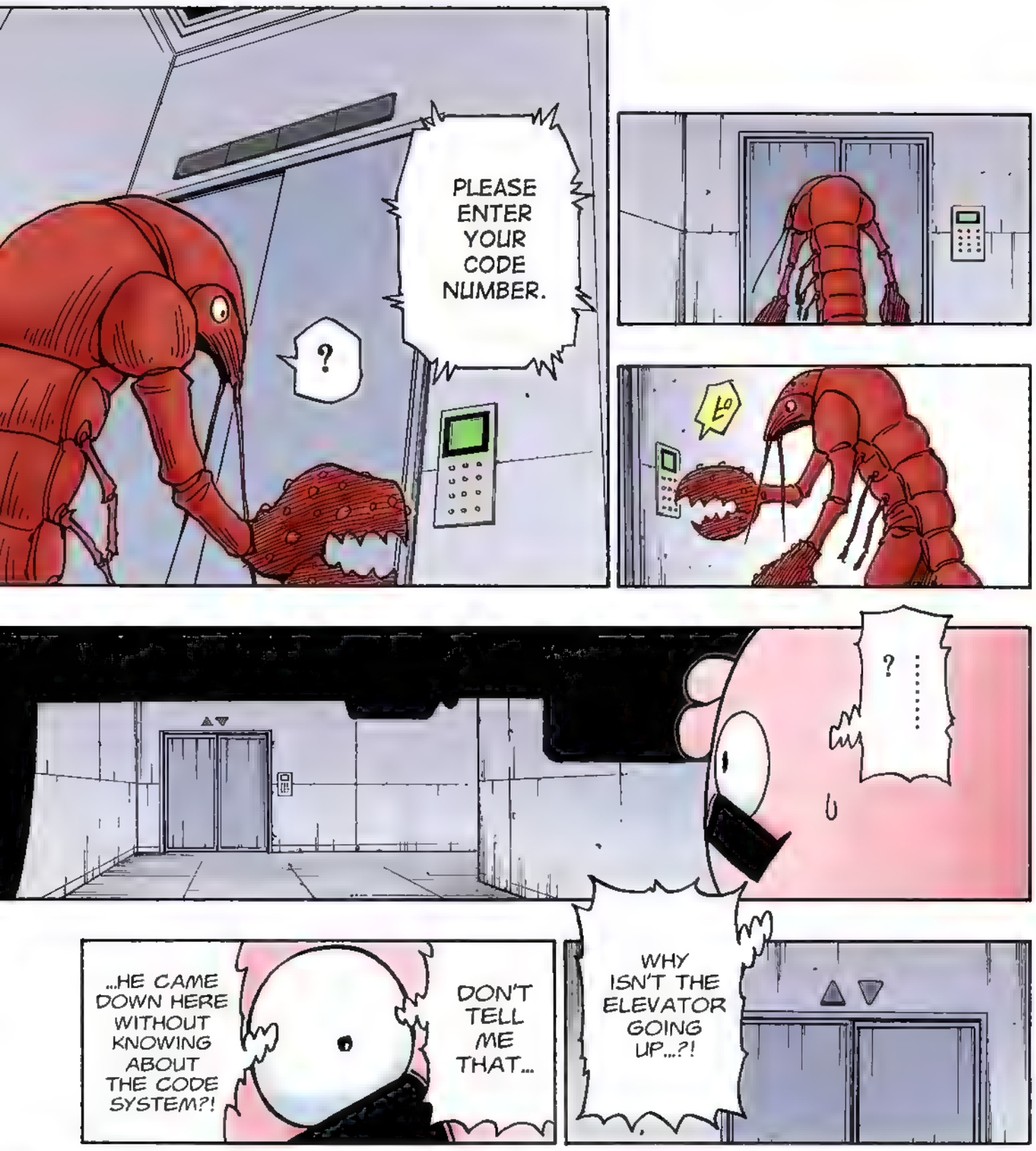
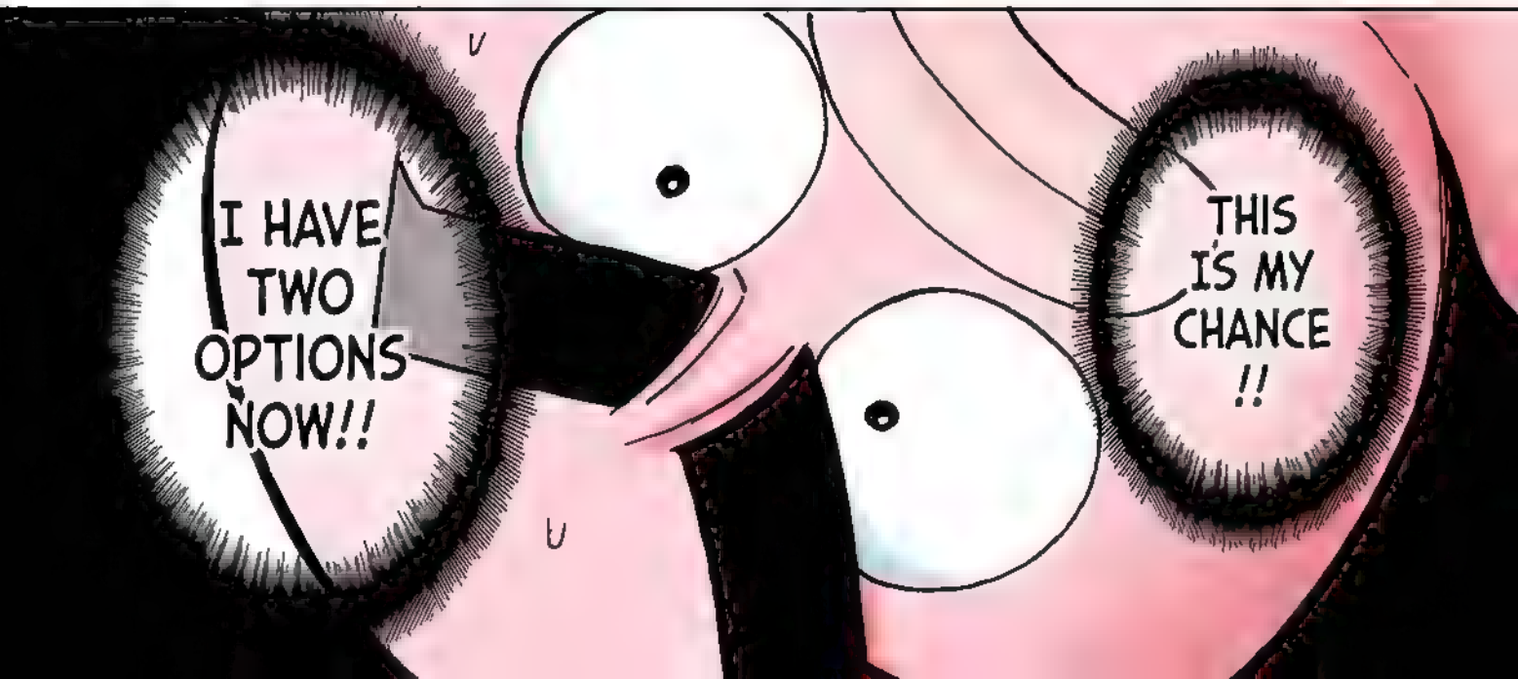



THEY NOW THINK THE SUSPECT IS DEAD...!


NOW, ONCE BLOSTER INFORMS THE OTHERS OF THIS...
...I CAN MOVE FREELY ...!!
.....
I GOTTA COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE IN CASE I CROSS THEIR PATHS...
NO, THAT WON'T WORK!!
WOULD THEY HAVE BELIEVED ME IF I HAD SAID THAT...
...EVEN IF I WAS TELLING THEM THE TRUTH...?
STILL, I NEVER HEARD THAT HAGYA CHANGED HIS NAME! WHAT IS IT NOW?!
ANYONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW HAGYA'S NEW NAME IS AUTOMATICALLY BRANDED AN ENEMY!!
BLOSTER DIDN'T WASTE ANY BREATH WITH ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE HE ATTACKED!!
I BETTER BE PREPARED FOR A SHOWDOWN !!
IF THEY FIND ME, THERE'LL BE A BATTLE!!


PLEASE ENTER YOUR CODE NUMBER.
?
?
WHY ISN'T THE ELEVATOR GOING UP...?!
...HE CAME DOWN HERE WITHOUT KNOWING ABOUT THE CODE SYSTEM?!
DON'T TELL ME THAT...


I HAVE TWO OPTIONS NOW!!
THIS IS MY CHANCE !!

No.280 DIRECT HIT
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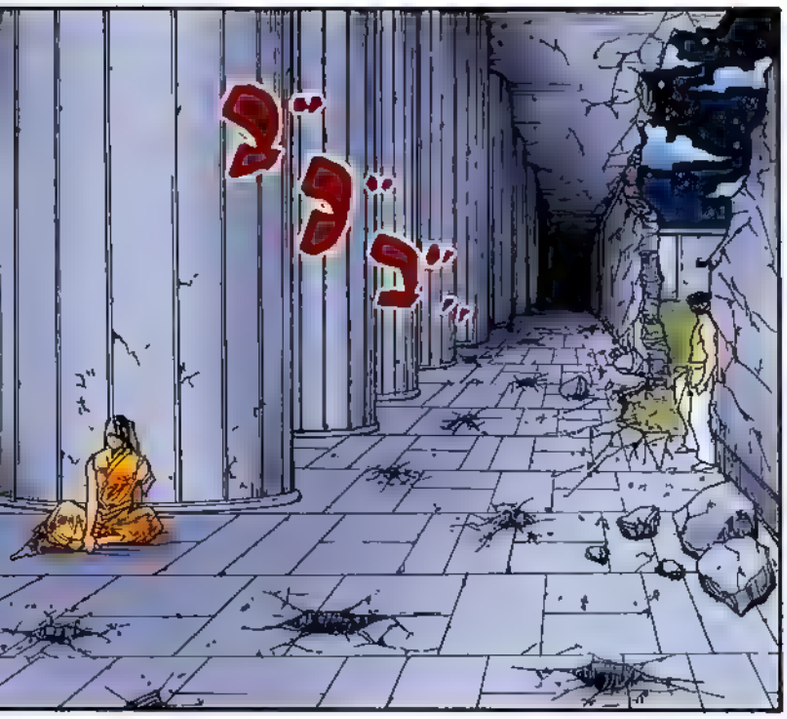
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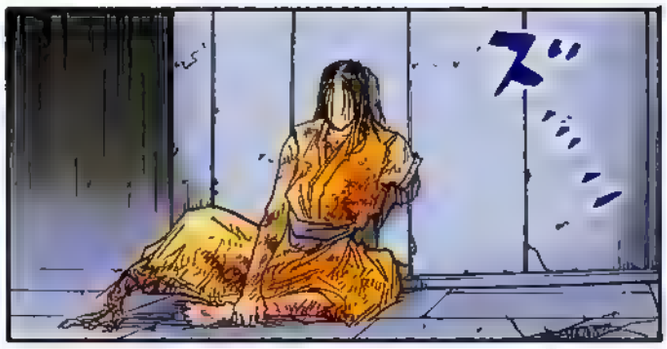
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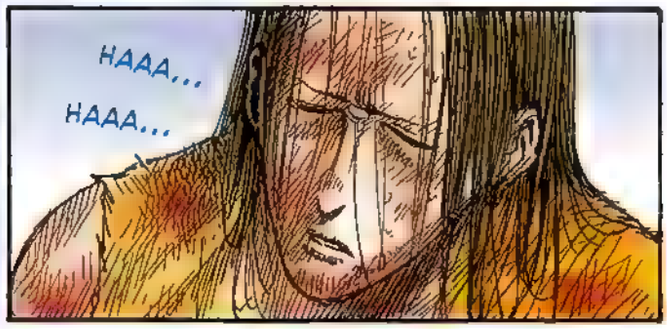
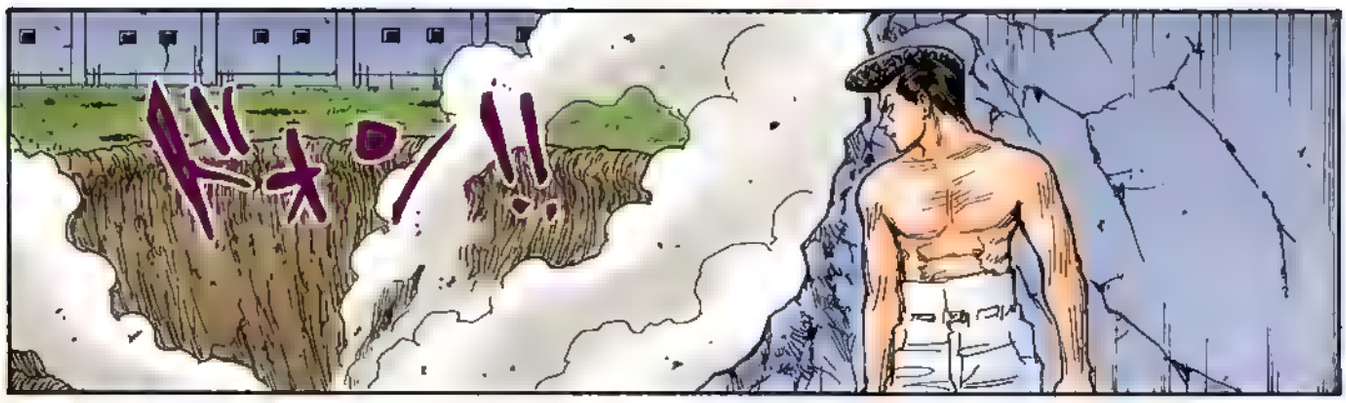

HAAA...
HAAA...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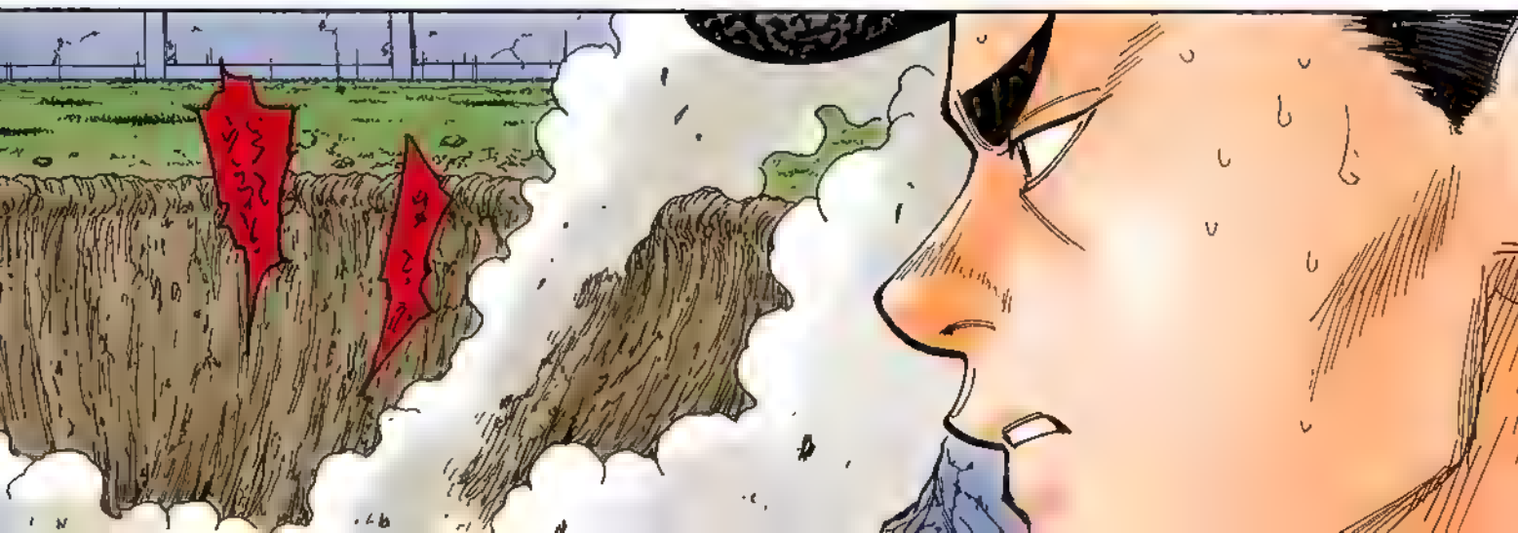

I JUST... I JUST HAVE TO AVOID A DIRECT HIT...!!
IS THAT ENOUGH TO GUARANTEE THAT HE WON'T PAY OFF THE FULL BALANCE WITH ONE HIT...?!
IT'S NEARLY BEEN 5 MINUTES SINCE "HAKOWARE" WAS ACTIVATED !!
IF THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN, I'M BETTER OFF BUYING TIME, WAITING FOR HIM TO GO BANKRUPT.
THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO... IS IF THE HIT IS BIG ENOUGH TO TERMINATE "HAKOWARE" AND HURT ME.
THE AURA DEBT WILL SOON REACH 7,000!!
SHOOT ...
SHOOT WON'T LAST THAT LONG...!!
THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO WAIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING FOR MORE THAN 10 MINUTES!!
BUT...
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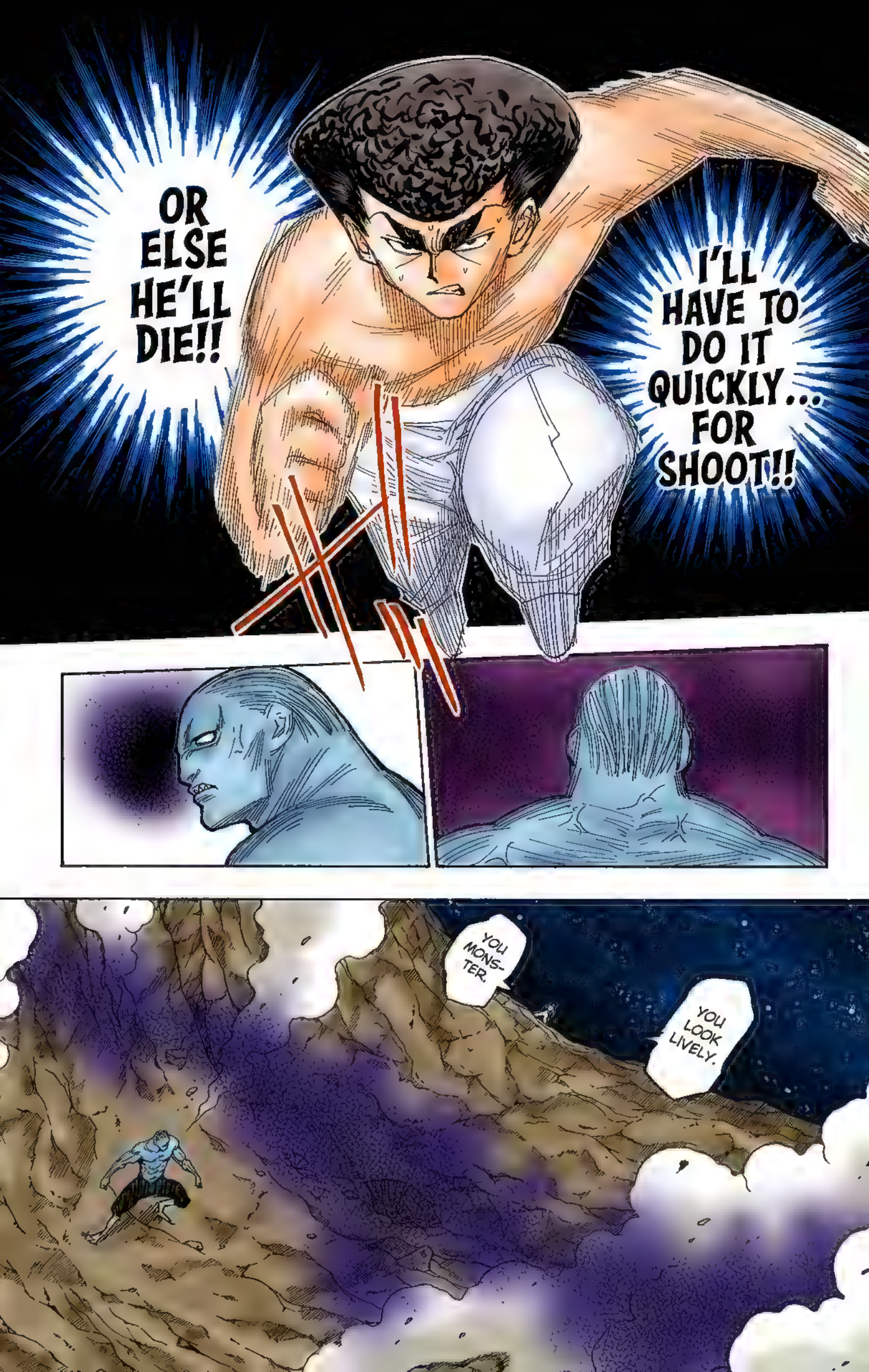
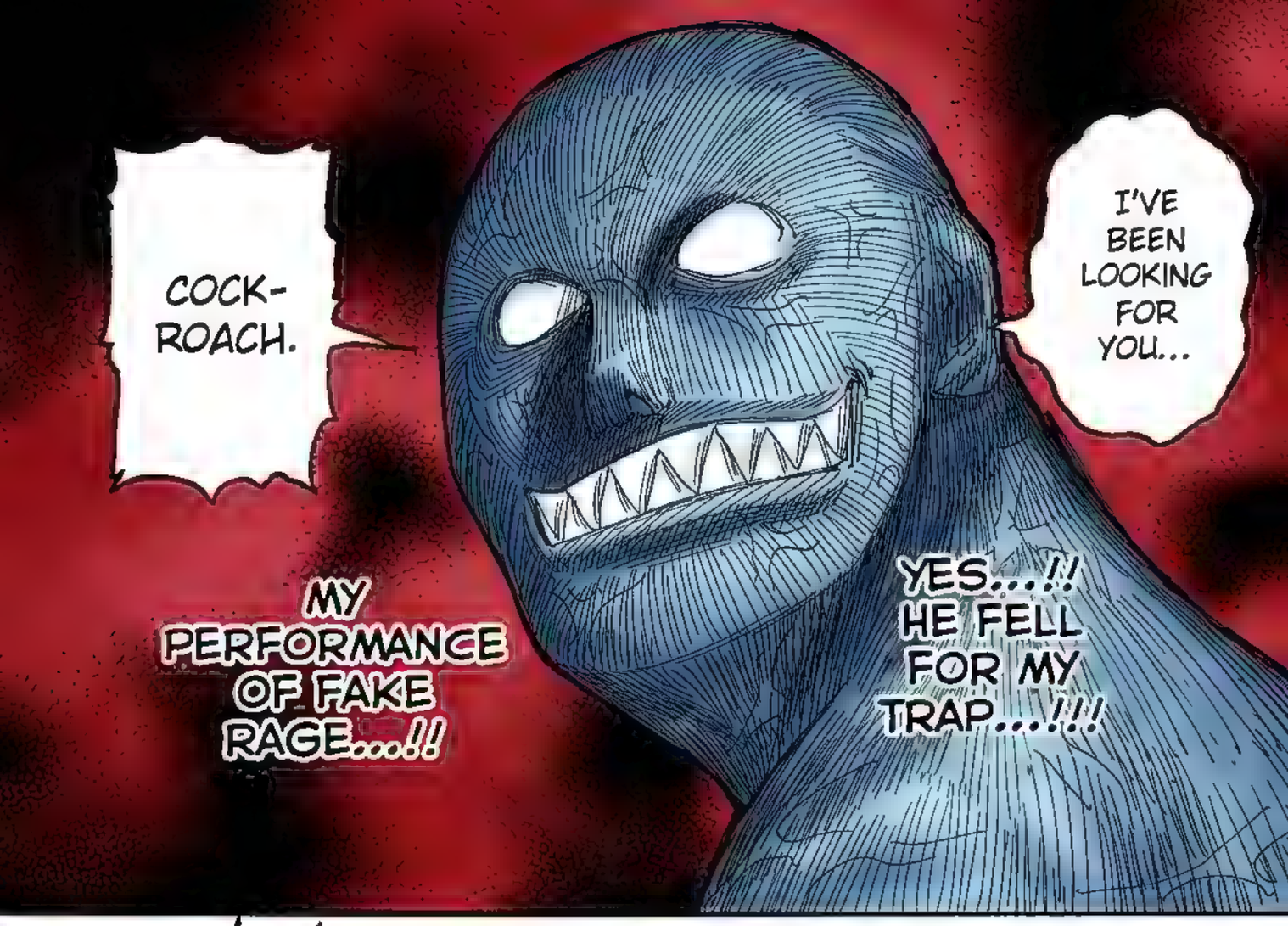
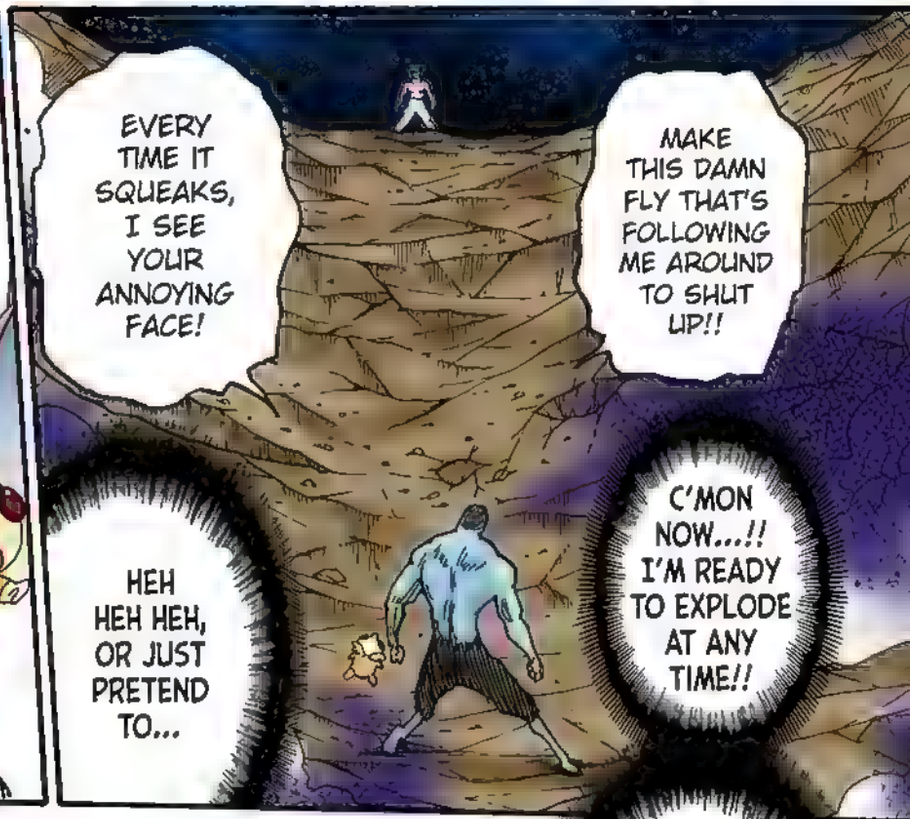
OR ELSE... IT'LL BE TOO LATE...!!
I HAVE TO MAKE HIM EXPLODE ONE MORE TIME...!!


OR ELSE HE'LL DIE!!
I'LL HAVE TO DO IT QUICKLY... FOR SHOOT!!
YOU MONS-TER.
YOU LOOK LIVELY.

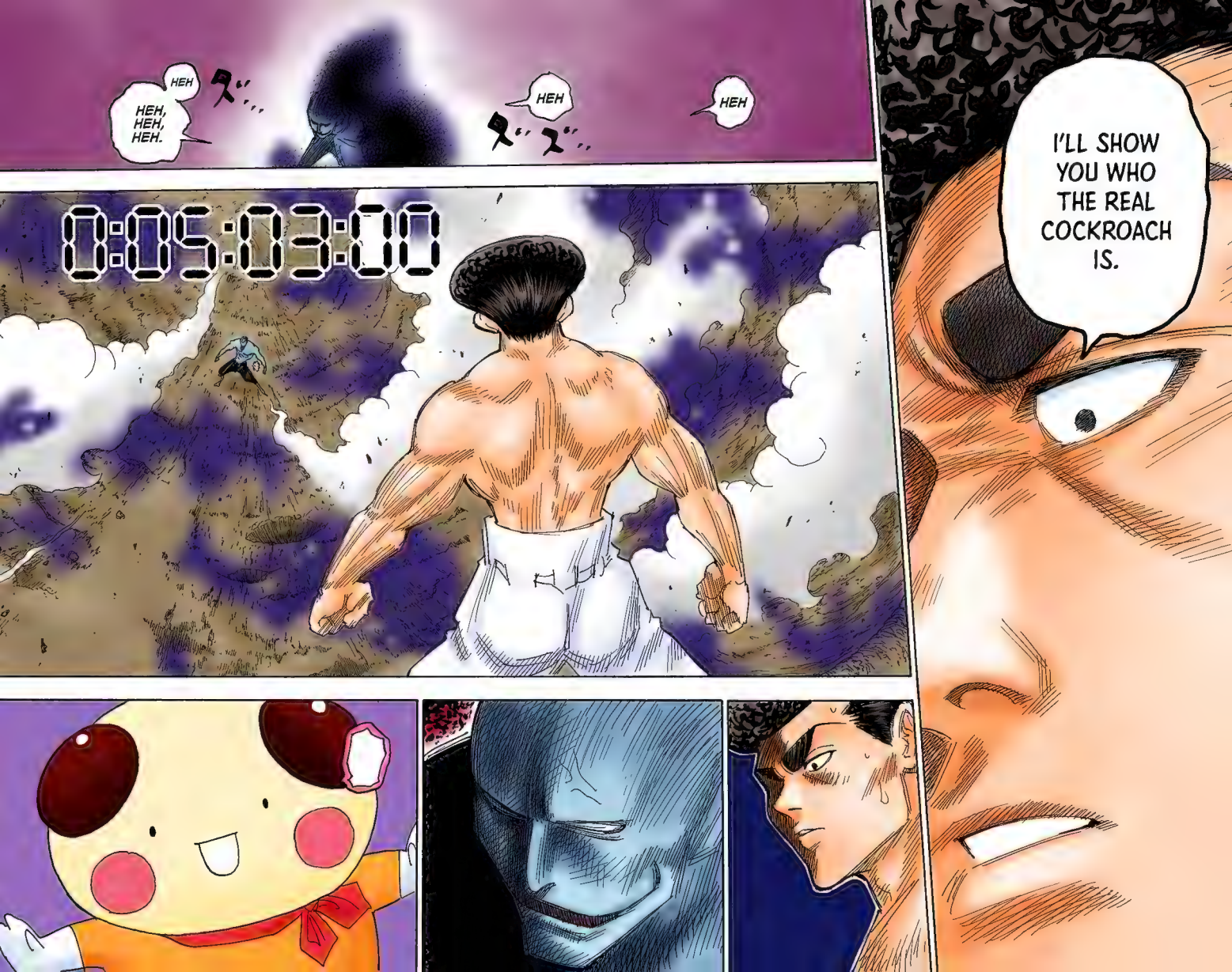

COCK-ROACH.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU...
MY PERFORMANCE OF FAKE RAGE...!!
YES...!! HE FELL FOR MY TRAP...!!!

AAA-ARG-HH!
SHUT UP ALREADY !!!
IT'S TIME. YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.

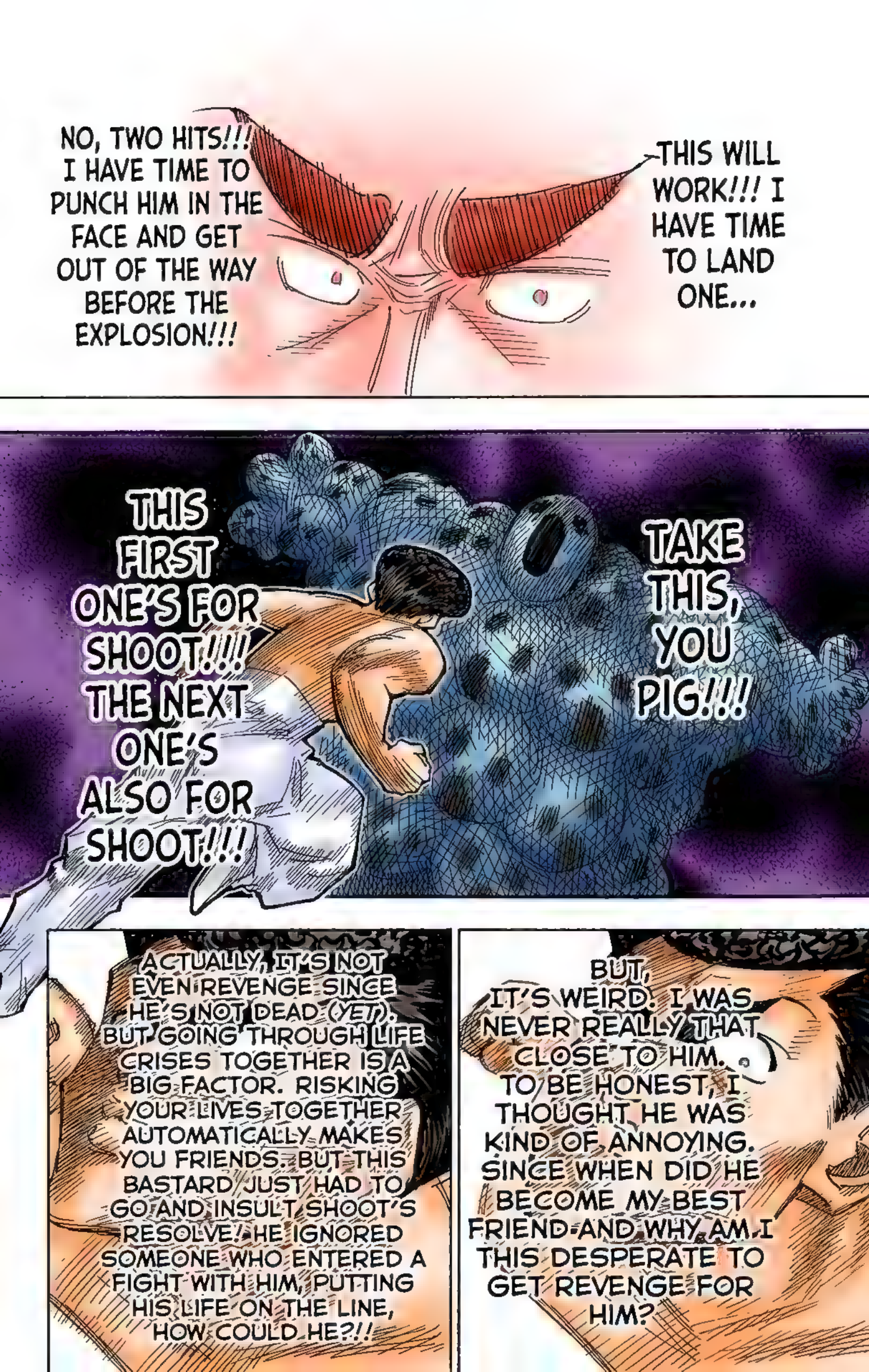

EVERY TIME IT SQUEAKS, I SEE YOUR ANNOYING FACE!
MAKE THIS DAMN FLY THAT'S FOLLOWING ME AROUND TO SHUT UP!!
HEH HEH HEH, OR JUST PRETEND TO...
C'MON NOW...!! I'M READY TO EXPLODE AT ANY TIME!!

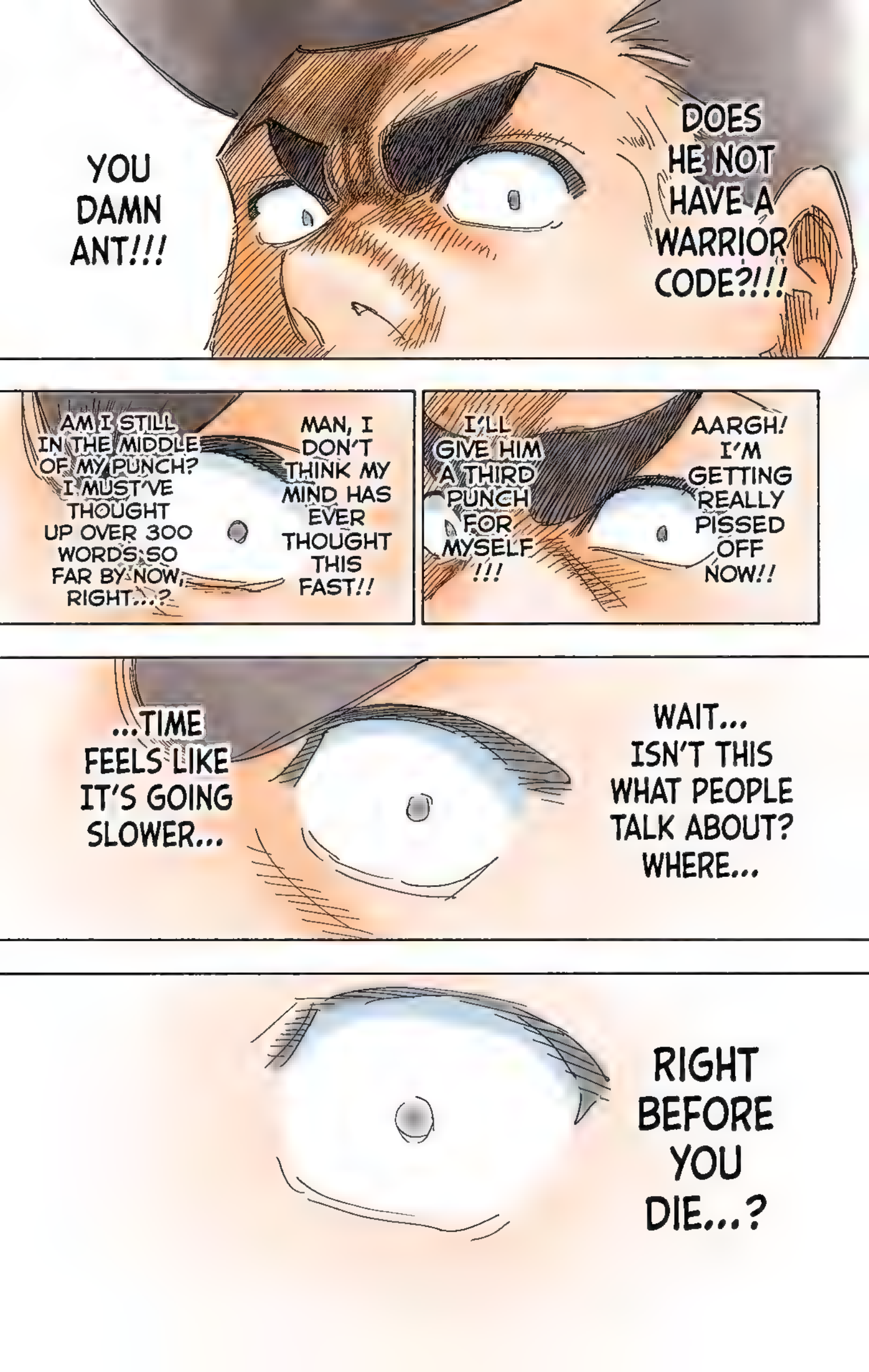
BUT!! IF I STAY "CALM" WHEN MY RAGE TAKES OVER, I CAN CONTROL MY GROWTH!!!
RIGHT BEFORE I EXPLODE... HE'LL TRY TO ATTACK DURING THAT OPENING!

AND I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT ...!!!
GET THIS THING OFF ME RIGHT NOW!!!
WHEN HE TRIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY I GIVE HIM, HE'LL OPEN UP...
OR ELSE...
I'LL BLOW EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU TO BITS, YOU SCUM!!!
I'LL KILL YOU !!!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE ON YOUR KNEES RIGHT HERE.
THE NEXT ONE...!!! THE NEXT INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MY CUE...!!!
IT AIN'T HAPPENING, FOOL.

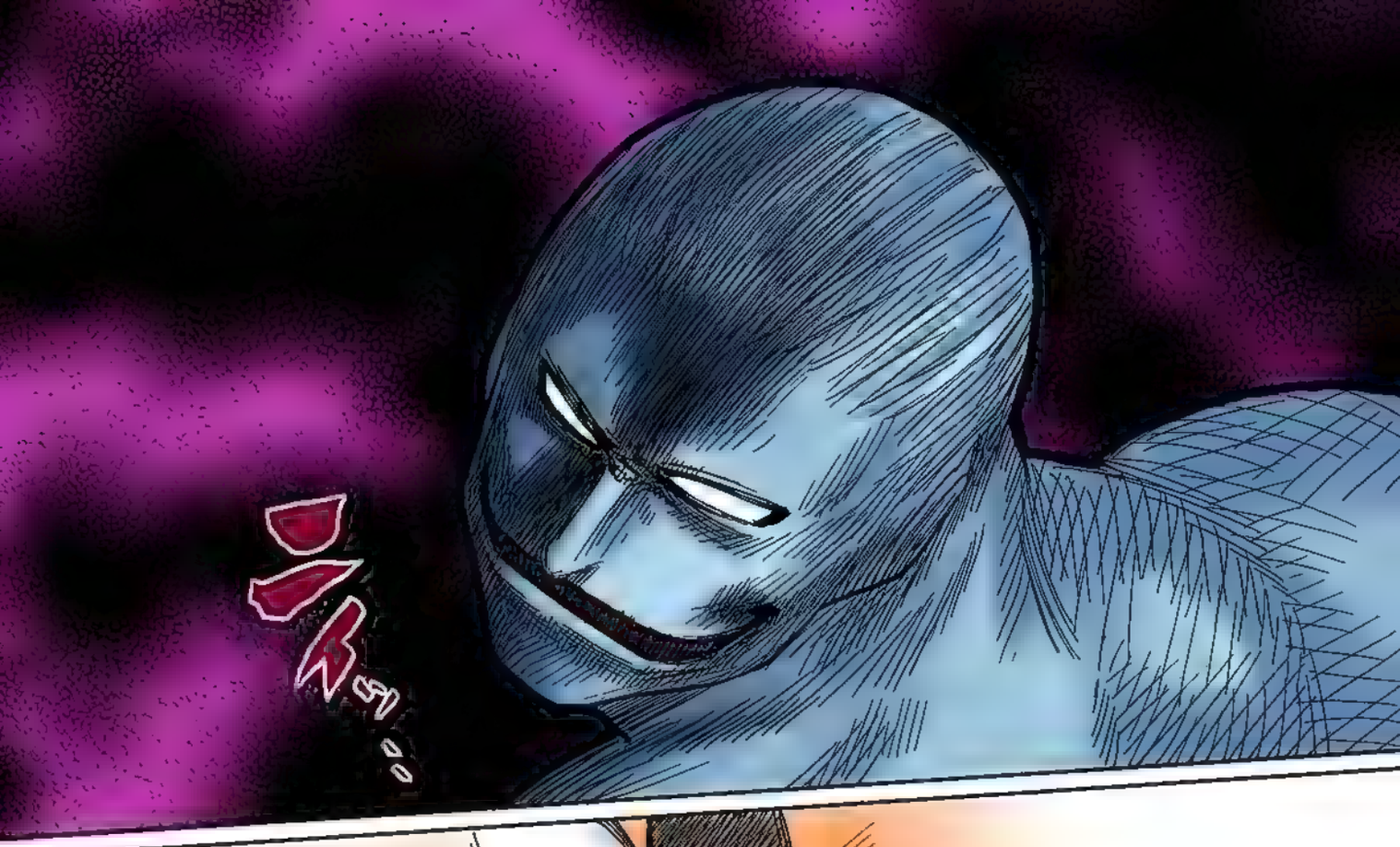

HEH
HEH, HEH, HEH.
HEH
HEH
0:05:03:00
I'LL SHOW YOU WHO THE REAL COCKROACH IS.

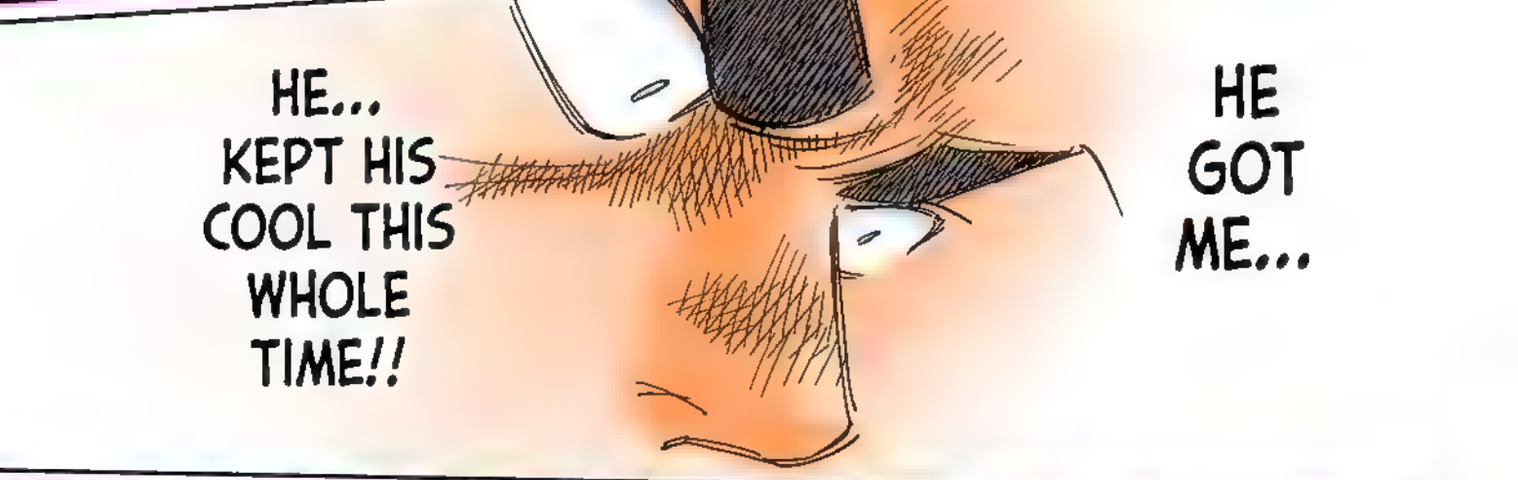
0:05:03:37


NO, TWO HITS!!! I HAVE TIME TO PUNCH HIM IN THE FACE AND GET OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THE EXPLOSION!!!
THIS WILL WORK!!! I HAVE TIME TO LAND ONE...
THIS FIRST ONE'S FOR SHOOT!!! THE NEXT ONE'S ALSO FOR SHOOT!!!
TAKE THIS, YOU PIG!!!
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT EVEN REVENGE SINCE HE'S NOT DEAD (YET). BUT GOING THROUGH LIFE CRISES TOGETHER IS A BIG FACTOR. RISKING YOUR LIVES TOGETHER AUTOMATICALLY MAKES YOU FRIENDS. BUT THIS BASTARD JUST HAD TO GO AND INSULT SHOOT'S RESOLVE! HE IGNORED SOMEONE WHO ENTERED A FIGHT WITH HIM, PUTTING HIS LIFE ON THE LINE, HOW COULD HE?!!
BUT, IT'S WEIRD. I WAS NEVER REALLY THAT CLOSE TO HIM. TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT HE WAS KIND OF ANNOYING. SINCE WHEN DID HE BECOME MY BEST FRIEND AND WHY AM I THIS DESPERATE TO GET REVENGE FOR HIM?


YOU DAMN ANT!!!
DOES HE NOT HAVE A WARRIOR CODE?!!!
AM I STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF MY PUNCH? I MUST'VE THOUGHT UP OVER 300 WORDS SO FAR BY NOW, RIGHT...?
MAN, I DON'T THINK MY MIND HAS EVER THOUGHT THIS FAST!!
I'LL GIVE HIM A THIRD PUNCH FOR MYSELF !!!
AARGH! I'M GETTING REALLY PISSED OFF NOW!!
...TIME FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING SLOWER...
WAIT... ISN'T THIS WHAT PEOPLE TALK ABOUT? WHERE...
RIGHT BEFORE YOU DIE...?

!?
HE STOPPED...
...SWELLING...
...MIDWAY...?!


ハハハ…


HE... KEPT HIS COOL THIS WHOLE TIME!!
HE GOT ME...

ドンッ!!

SHOOT...!! I'M SORRY... I SCREWED UP...!!
I CAN'T... STOP NOW!!

THIS... WILL BE WAY MORE THAN THE INTEREST...
I'M DONE FOR...!!
SHOOT...
MOREL...

EVERY-
ONE...

I LEAVE
THE REST...
TO YOU...!!

GH…NH…!!
THUNDER-BOLT!!!!

ドボ
ドボ
URAAH
GH

Digital color version
HUNTER×HUNTER
Volume 26

Yoshihiro Togashi
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YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

I Learned
How To
Swim After I
Turned 30.

●週刊少年ジャンプ・H20年14号～24号掲載分収録

LOVE
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JC HUNTER×HUNTER ハンター NO.26

冨樫義博◆

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JUMP COMICS

HUNTER × HUNTER

NO.26▶再会

Yoshihiro Togashi

本体・表紙

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